THURSDAY
September 25, 2025

BENGALURU
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BMTC issues circular on mobile phone use

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The BMTC has issued a circular warning its drivers against the use of mobile phones and other digital devices while driving, stating that such violations will invite strict disciplinary action. » PAGE 2

Commuters seek satellite bus stop

BENGALURU
Daily commuters from Nagasandra, Hesaraghatta Main Road, and 8th Mile have urged the KSRTC to set up a satellite bus stop along Tumakuru Road and provide shelters for passengers of non-premium buses. » PAGE 2

State exercise is census cloaked as survey: Centre

BENGALURU
The Union government on Wednesday told the High Court of Karnataka that the ongoing Social and Educational survey undertaken by the State government is nothing but "census cloaked as survey". » PAGE 5

Leh protest turns deadly; Ministry blames activist

BJP office torched and Ladakh Hill Council premises vandalised as protesters seeking Statehood, tribal status for region go on a rampage; Centre says mob attacked police, 30 personnel injured

Vijaita Singh
Peerzada Ashiq
NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR

Several people were feared dead and many injured in Leh city in the Union Territory of Ladakh on Wednesday after an ongoing protest demanding the constitutional safeguards of Statehood and tribal status for the region bordering China turned violent.

The Union Home Ministry, in a statement, said an unruly mob destroyed public property and attacked the police, injuring around 30 security personnel. The police had to resort to firing, in which "unfortunately some casualties are reported", it said.

The Ministry said a hunger strike was started by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on September 10 to press for Statehood and inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule (tribal status). It said the Government of India had been actively engaging with the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), and despite a planned meeting on September 26 with the leaders, "a mob guided by Sonam Wangchuk's provocative statements" caused violence.

"The government stands committed to the aspiration of people of Ladakh by providing adequate constitutional safeguards," the Ministry said.

It added that the demands on which Mr. Wangchuk was on hunger strike were an integral part of the discussion of a high-powered committee.

"In spite of many leaders urging to call off the hunger strike, he continued with the hunger strike and misleading the people through provocative mention of Arab Spring-style protest and references to Gen Z protests in Nepal... Amidst these violent developments, he broke his fast and left for his village in an ambulance without making serious efforts to control the situation," it said. The protesters, mostly youth, torched the BJP office and vandalised the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council premises.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Public outcry: A vehicle belonging to security forces being set on fire during the protest in Leh demanding Statehood for the Union Territory of Ladakh, on Wednesday. AP

Congress behind the protests in Ladakh, says BJP

NEW DELHI
The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday alleged that the Congress was behind the protests in Ladakh's Leh, dismissing claims that the demonstrations were led by the "Gen Z" demographic. At a press conference here, BJP MP Sambit Patra alleged that Congress councillor Stanzin Tsepag was the "instigator" of the protests. » PAGE 13

Renowned Kannada novelist S.L. Bhyrappa passes away

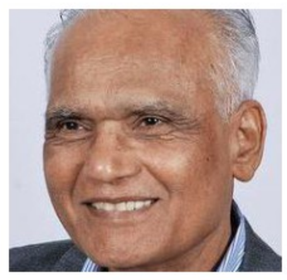
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Well-known Kannada writer and Saraswati Samman awardee S.L. Bhyrappa, 94, passed away at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Wednesday. He was suffering from age-related ailments and was under treatment in the city for the past three months.

Bhyrappa is survived by wife Saraswati and two sons, Uday Shankar and Ravi Shankar.

Jayadev Memorial Rashtrotthana Hospital and Research Centre, where he was admitted, stated that he suffered cardiac arrest and passed away late on Wednesday afternoon. Sources said he was suffering from cardiac issues and had collapsed during a morning walk a few months ago. He was then shifted from Mysuru to Bengaluru for better care.

The cremation would be held on September 26 in Mysuru, where he lived for many years, with State honours. On September 25, the body would be kept at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru for people to pay their last respects.



S.L. Bhyrappa

From Hassan

A native of Santheshivara in Channarayapatna taluk of Hassan district, Bhyrappa studied in Hassan and Mysuru districts. He served as a professor of philosophy in various parts of India, including Gujarat and New Delhi, even as he continued to write his novels.

Bhyrappa was one of the most widely read writers of Kannada and wrote 25 novels, all of which have seen multiple reprints and translated into several languages. He announced retirement in 2017 after his novel *Uttarakanda*, a retelling of Ramayana, from Sita's perspective. His novels *Parva*, *Vamsavriksa* and *Gruhabhanga* are considered classics of Kannada literature. Some of his popular novels were turned into equally popular films and television serials.

Controversies

Bhyrappa, a sympathiser of the Hindutva politics, was no stranger to controversies. He often faced criticism for his vocal Hindutva stances in public platforms as well as in his novels.

RELATED REPORTS » PAGES 8 AND 9

India is mostly with us: Zelenskyy

Sriram Lakshman

Saying that India is mostly on Ukraine's side in its war with Russia, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has urged Western countries to continue engaging with India.

His comments were made to *Fox News* in an interview in New York on Tuesday, where Mr. Zelenskyy is attending the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly. "I think India is mostly with us," he said. "We had this question with energy, but I think President [Donald] Trump can manage it," he added, urging European nations to build a closer relationship with India.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 16

HC rejects X Corp.'s plea against takedown orders

No relief

The Karnataka High Court rejected X Corp.'s petition challenging blocking orders issued under the Information Technology Act

- Regulation of information in this domain is neither novel nor unique. Every sovereign nation regulates it. India likewise cannot, by any stretch of constitutional imagination, be branded unlawful for doing so, says court
- Content on social media must be regulated, particularly in cases of offences against women, failing which the right to dignity of citizens is undermined, it says

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

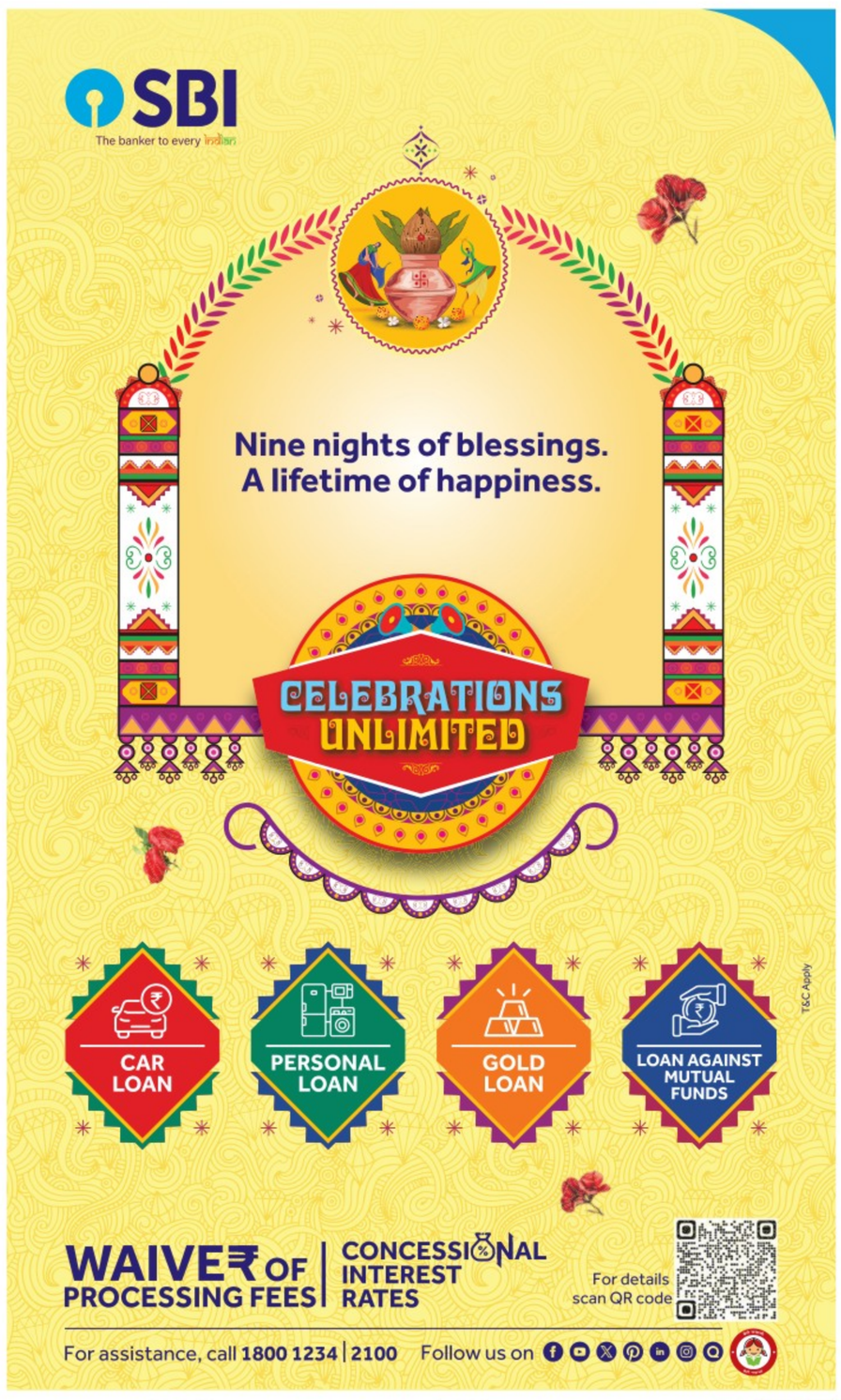
Observing that "social media, as a modern amphitheatre of ideas, cannot be left in a state of anarchic freedom", the Karnataka High Court on Wednesday rejected a petition filed by X Corp. challenging orders issued by Central and State authorities to take down certain content on its micro-blogging platform, X, under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna, while reading out the operative portions of the judgment, said: "Content on social media must be regulated, particularly in cases of offences against women, failing which the right to dignity of citizens is undermined."

"Order is the architecture of our democracy. Every platform that seeks to operate within the jurisdiction of our nation must accept that liberty is yoked with responsibility, and the privilege of access carries with it the solemn duty of accountability," the court said.

Pointing out that information and communication and its spread or its speed have never been left unchecked or unregulated but have always been the subject matter of regulation, the court said, "As and when technology developed, from messengers to the postal age till the age of WhatsApp, Instagram and Snapchat, all have been regulated by regulatory regimes subsisting then and subsisting today, both globally and locally; and regulation of information in this domain is neither novel nor unique."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12



Teenage sensation to Australia's future — the Litchfield saga

The left-hander, who was 16 when she played in a charity match, has quickly found a spot in the national team; her performance in the recent ODI series against India is a reminder that she is one of the players to watch out for in the upcoming 50-over World Cup starting next week

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Phoebe Litchfield was 16 when she watched, from the non-striker's end, Brian Lara loft Andrew Symonds for a six over covers. In that charity match, the Bushfire Cricket Bash, at Melbourne in 2020, the left-hander also batted with Ricky Ponting.

Her teammates also included Justin Langer, Matthew Hayden, Wasim Akram, Brett Lee and Nathan Lyon. She got to meet Sachin Tendulkar, too. The little maestro was the coach of her side, the Ricky Ponting XI.

Litchfield would later say it was the best day of her life. She also said she felt so surreal that she had felt as if she was an imposter. She hadn't played for Australia yet. But it was always going to be only a question of when, not if.

Litchfield had been recognised as a future star for Australian women's cricket from a young age. She hasn't disappointed. She is now one of the most exciting young talents in women's cricket at the moment.

A fabulous strokeplayer who has shots all around the ground, she made an impact in the recent ODI series in India, too, though she played in just one match. That was the opening game of the series, at the spanking new PCA Stadium in Chandigarh, where her first contribution was a superb direct hit from extra cover, ending Smriti Mandhana's innings. India's danger woman was on 58 and was looking for much more - that innings would be the only one that didn't turn into a hundred for her in the series - and her opening partnership with Pratika Rawal was worth 114.

The Smriti-Pratika combine has proved a huge success at the top of the order within a short span of time and Australia was desperate for a breakthrough.

Later, talking about that match, seasoned Australian batter Beth Mooney had acknowledged how vital that piece of fielding by Litchfield was. "After that first-wicket partnership for India, we dragged the momentum back through some amazing fielding by Litchfield," she said.

India indeed lost a bit of momentum, but still managed to post its highest ever score against Australia - 281 for seven (a score which Harmanpreet Kaur's women would go past twice in the three-match series).

But, the Aussie batters had little trouble in chasing it down, with eight wickets and nearly six overs to spare.

The chase was led by Litchfield with a fine 88 n.o off 80 balls. She was shaping up nicely for what would have been her third ODI hundred until she was caught while playing a reverse-sweep, one of her favourite shots, against Sneh Rana. But she had done her bit, and the task was completed by Mooney and Annabel Sutherland, another young star.

Shortly after walking away with the Player-of-the-Match award, Litchfield spoke of the way she was dismissed. "I live and die by the sword sometimes," she said. "You have seen me get out today with the reverse."

She also talked of the significance of batting, in what is the early stage of her career, alongside superstars like Alyssa Healy, Ellyse Perry and Mooney, all part of the golden generation of Australian women's cricket.

"It is pretty good," she said. "They keep me going but also bat ridiculously well. It is pretty nice to look down and have them batting at the other end. They make my job very easy. It is nice to have a calm head out there. Sometimes my head is racing, but they are masters of their craft."

It didn't take Litchfield long to make her presence felt even in the formidable Australian team, which has been the best in women's cricket for a long time by some distance. She turned heads with her exploits in the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL). In 2019, playing for Sydney Thunder, she scored a fifty against Brisbane Heat in just her second game and became the youngest to hit a half-century in the league.

She was picked in the Australia-A team in early 2022 for the series at home against England-A. She made a couple of fifties in the One-Dayers. Later that year, she made it to the Australian side for the T20I series on the tour of India. She made her debut in the second game, at Navi Mumbai, but did not get to bat. In the last of the five-match series, she opened along with Mooney; she could make just 11, though.

A month later, in January 2023, she made her ODI debut against Pakistan.

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

And quite a debut it turned out to be. She struck a splendid 78 not out off to lead Australia's chase of the modest target set by the visitors, and she set the record, at 19, for the youngest Australian woman to score a fifty on debut. She followed it up with a 61-ball 67 not out in the second ODI. She was opening the innings in the series in place of the injured skipper Healy. And she made good use of the opportunity, cementing her place.

By June that year, she had also made her Test debut, against England at Nottingham. She scored 46 in the second innings. The year continued to get better for her, as she hit her maiden international hundred, in the third ODI against Ireland at Dublin. Then she smashed an 18-ball fifty against the West Indies in the second T20I at North Sydney.

She had worked hard on power-hitting. "I would really like to hit more sixes," she said. "I am going to get in the gym and try to hit more sixes. That is the plan."

The plan has worked. She added power to her technique and timing. And add to all that, her reverse sweep and switch hit, could cause headaches to the best of bowlers.

She also made a mark at the WPL, for Gujarat Giants, and The Hundred, in which she was the Most Valuable Player as she took Northern Superchargers to the title last month.

Now, she is looking forward to her maiden ODI World Cup. She certainly would be one of the players to watch out for in the tournament starting at Guwahati next week. New Chandigarh showed she was in good form, too. Mooney is hoping to see her flourish at the World Cup.

"I think Phoebe is an amazing player already at such a young age," she said. "From my point of view, she is really clear on her own game plan and clear on her method, which helps when you walk out there having that clarity."

Mooney is impressed about her attitude to the game, too. "She is quite fearless as a young player, likes to take the game on," she said.

"She is a real deep thinker of the game as well. So you know she is going to come up with some kind of solution to whatever teams throw at her. And yes, it is nice to see her with her switch hits and reverses. Hopefully we will be seeing a bit more of that throughout the World Cup. She has been incredible for us and long may that continue."

And she could be an Australian captain one day. In fact, last year, at 21, she was appointed the youngest full-time captain ever in the WBBL, taking over the reins of Sydney Thunder from Heather Knight.

THE GIST

- Right from a young age Litchfield was a promising talent, who at 16 played in a charity match alongside legends of the game including Justin Langer, Matthew Hayden, Wasim Akram, Brett Lee and Nathan Lyon
- In the recently concluded series against India, she quickly made an impact with her fabulous strokeplay and all-round contribution
- It didn't take long for the left-hander to make her presence felt in the formidable Australian team. Her breakthrough came in 2019 when she turned heads with her performance in Women's Big Bash League which later found her a spot in the ODI, Test and T20 teams for Australia

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Commuters demand satellite bus stop on Tumakuru Road

They complain that absence of such a facility forces them to either travel to Majestic or wait at open roadside spots

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Daily commuters from Nagasandra, Hesaraghatta Main Road, and 8th Mile have urged the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) to set up a satellite bus stop along Tumakuru Road and provide proper shelters for passengers of non-premium buses. They complain that the absence of such a facility forces them to either travel all the way to Kempegowda Bus Station at Majestic or wait at open roadside spots without even basic amenities.

For residents of fast-growing neighbourhoods like Nagasandra, Goraguntepalya, Jalahalli Cross, and Hessarghatta Main Road, long-distance bus travel has become an ordeal. FILE PHOTO

Painful travel

For residents of fast-growing neighbourhoods like Nagasandra, Goraguntepalya, Jalahalli Cross, and Hessarghatta Main Road, long-distance bus travel has become an ordeal.

"The irony is people who stay in Nagasandra or around IKEA and want to travel to Hassan, Shivamogga, Hubballi, or other northern districts of Karnataka, have to travel all the way to Majestic to catch a KSRTC bus," said Niranjan Raj Urs, a Nagasandra resident.

He explained that an early-morning journey itself is tiring. "It takes a good 40 minutes to reach KBS and another 45 minutes to come to Parle toll, provided you even get the bus on time. Post 8 a.m., the travel time only worsens."

According to him, the lack of a well-functioning satellite bus stop around Jalahalli Cross or Dasarahalli forces passengers to wait at crowded roadside stops such as Goraguntepalya Outer Ring Road, 8th Mile, or Jalahalli Cross.

"People just chase buses to board and have no seats to avail. Thanks to the free bus scheme, the rush has only worsened. We need a proper satellite bus terminal to avoid punishing commuters with painful travel," Mr. Niranjan said.

Call for better planning

Residents argue that decentralising long-distance bus operations is essential to decongest Majestic and ease city traffic.

"Only premium or reservation buses stop near our localities. Other buses don't, and we have to go to Majestic. Buses from Mumbai, Pune, North Karnataka, and Tumakuru should be terminated near Nagasandra. We must decongest Majestic and use Namma Metro to connect passengers. Roads too will be decongested if KSRTC develops satellite bus stands beyond Nelamangala," said Tejaswi Rao, resident from Nagasandra.

Manjunath K., a resident of Kirloskar Layout off Hesaraghatta Main Road, said, "There should be a satellite bus stop around Peenya for buses heading to Shivamogga, Hassan, Mangaluru, and beyond."

"We also need a sheltered waiting place near the Parle G factory, where many passengers stand in the open. Additionally, there should be a service road opening near Parle G to the national highway so that people don't have to risk jumping over the parapet wall," Mr. Manjunath said.

A wasted investment?

The Basaveshwara Bus Terminal, located in Peenya, was inaugurated in 2014 with much fanfare. Around 140 bus schedules to North Karnataka destinations such as Davangere, Shivamogga, Chitradurga, and Tumakuru were initially shifted from Majestic to the new terminal. However, poor passenger patronage quickly turned it into a failed experiment, forcing KSRTC to restore the services to KBS within a few months.

Since then, the ₹40-crore facility has stood largely idle, its promise of easing congestion at Majestic left unfulfilled.

Authorities explored ideas to link the terminal with the nearby Peenya Metro station, introduce dedicated shuttle services, or even establish a multiplex to draw footfall. None of these proposals materialised.

BMTC warns drivers of strict penalties for mobile phone use while driving

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The move comes in the wake of a series of recent incidents involving BMTC buses that have led to loss of lives and tarnished the corporation's reputation. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has issued a circular warning its drivers against the use of mobile phones and other digital devices while driving, stating that such violations will invite strict disciplinary action, including suspension, salary deductions, transfers, and withholding of increments.

The move comes in the wake of a series of recent incidents involving BMTC buses that have led to loss of lives and tarnished the corporation's reputation. According to officials, investigations revealed that in several cases drivers were distracted by mobile phones or digital gadgets, prompting the management to introduce stringent measures.

'Red mark'

The circular makes it clear that the use of mobile phones, Bluetooth devices, earphones, or similar gadgets while driving, whether for calls, music, or chatting, will be treated as a "red mark (ORMC)" case under disciplinary rules. For the first and second offences, permanent drivers and probationers will face a 15-day suspension, transfer within the division, and a ₹5,000 salary deduction. Probationers will lose an increment for one year.

Trainee drivers

Trainee drivers will face removal from duty for 15 days, disciplinary inquiry, and a deduction of ₹2,500 for the first offence and ₹5,000 for the second, the circular stated.

The punishments escalate sharply for repeat violations. By the third offence, penalties include withholding increments for up to two years and deductions of up to ₹20,000 from salary. From the fifth offence onwards, trainee drivers risk permanent removal from the trainee selection list, while employees could face deductions as high as ₹30,000 along with loss of increments.

"These penalties are in the interest of public safety and to protect the corporation's image. It also reserved the right to impose additional punishments under its Conduct and Discipline Rules, 1971," BMTC official said.

74 undergo free cancer screening

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of the nationwide initiative "Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan" launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, NIMHANS in collaboration with Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, organised a free screening camp for cervical and breast cancer. The camp was open to all women employees.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from the NIMHANS community and 74 employees were screened on Wednesday.

The mobile screening bus from Kidwai is stationed at the OPD block near the free drug counter from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Screening is being conducted by women oncologists to ensure comfort and privacy for participants. Women are required to provide their ABHA ID or Aadhaar card, and the quick two-minute process collected basic health information. Screening reports are being shared both as hard copies and through email for convenience.

The campaign is observed from September 17 to October 2, 2025, with activities across the country aimed at strengthening women's health through awareness, screening, and preventive care.

Health Dept. foils inter-State female foeticide attempt

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Health Department has successfully carried out a covert operation in Andhra Pradesh to prevent female foeticide, highlighting the increasing trend of pregnant women crossing State borders to circumvent laws.

The operation involved a 30-year-old woman from Malavalli taluk, Mandya district, who already had three daughters. She had approached an agent in Andhra Pradesh for illegal prenatal sex determination. Upon learning the foetus was female, she planned a medical termination despite being five months pregnant. Karnataka Health Department officials, in coordination with their Andhra Pradesh counterparts, swiftly launched a sting operation.

Joint operation

Karnataka's PCPNDT State Nodal Officer Vivek Dorai told *The Hindu* that on September 21 that a joint operation was conducted at Basha Nursing Home, Kodumur Taluk, Kurnool district, along with Andhra Pradesh PCPNDT State Nodal Officer K.V.N.S. Anil Kumar. The operation included the pregnant woman and her husband to ensure evidence collection.

The woman was first noticed on September 2 by an ASHA worker and a medical officer during routine visits, who observed her in a weak condition. The woman disclosed that she had not taken any medication for the past two days after learning that the foetus was female. The ASHA worker Susheela immediately reported the case to the medical officer. On September 3, a team comprising Seren Namrata (PHC medical officer), Nandini (Primary Health Care Officer), and the ASHA worker visited the woman again for further questioning. The medical officer reported the matter to Taluk Health Officer Veerabhadrappa

"The couple had initially contacted an agent who instructed them to meet at Guntakal bus station. A female agent then took the woman in an autorickshaw to determine the foetus's sex, charging ₹7,000. After confirming the foetus was female, the agent demanded an additional ₹20,000 for an abortion. The couple refused and returned to their workplace," Dr. Dorai said.

During the covert operation, the couple handed over ₹9,000 to the agent, and the transaction was documented. The agent's subsequent handling of the money was verified against serial numbers, and the agent revealed that Dr. Baby, a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) in Tilak Nagar, Guntakal, was expected to perform the medical termination.

The case has been handed over to Andhra Pradesh State Nodal Officer Dr. Anil Kumar for further investigation and legal action, Dr. Dorai said.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao commended the officials for their meticulous planning and swift action. "Wherever female foeticide is attempted, the department will take strict action. Female foeticide is a social menace, and societal change is critical to eradicate it," he said, urging citizens to remain vigilant. Officials emphasised that inter-State coordination is essential under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques - Prohibition of Sex Selection (PCPNDT) Act to prevent such violations, particularly in districts bordering Karnataka, including Ballari, Raichur, and Vijayanagara.

Academic collaboration

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

New Jersey Governor Philip Murphy and First Lady Tammy Snyder Murphy visited CHRIST (Deemed to be) University on Tuesday to discuss potential academic partnerships.

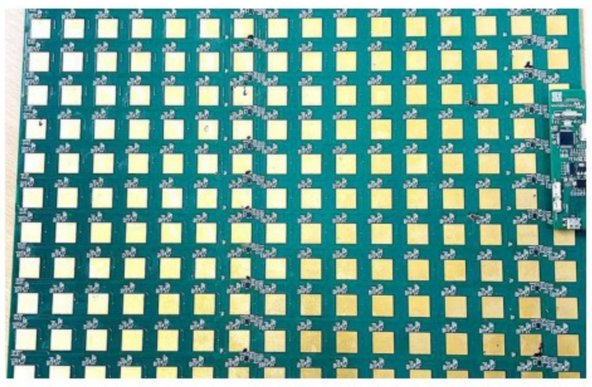
The delegation included academic, corporate, and economic representatives from New Jersey, along with Edison Mayor Samip Joshi and the First Lady of Edison.

Governor Murphy, in his address on "Youth as Global Citizens," underlined the role of academic collaboration in building international engagement. He highlighted opportunities for exchange.

IIIT-B develops smart panels to boost 5G and shape 6G networks

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Mobile networks often slow down or drop in places where signals cannot reach properly. Instead of building more towers or expensive infrastructure, researchers at the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B) have developed Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces (RIS) – panels that act like 'smart walls' – to redirect or focus signals. This makes networks faster and energy-efficient and is expected to play an important role in upcoming 6G systems while improving existing 5G-advanced networks.



One of the biggest advantages of these panels is that they can be easily added to existing 5G-Advanced networks SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

One of the biggest advantages of RIS is that it can be easily added to existing 5G-Advanced networks as these panels can be mounted on walls or poles to fix coverage gaps in hotspots, working like a plug-and-play upgrade without major infrastructure changes.

For future 6G deployments, RIS can be built directly into the network design, enabling smarter beam management and optimized performance.

In both cases, it allows telecom operators to provide better coverage with fewer towers, cutting both costs and energy use.

"The RIS built at IIIT-B is designed as a 'passive' surface, meaning it consumes very little power while shaping signals. This makes it ideal and attractive for urban India, where operators need affordable solutions to improve coverage without adding heavy energy costs. Researchers are also exploring 'active' RIS (which can amplify signals but require power) and hybrid designs that combine the two for more advanced functions," Prof. Debabrata Das, Director, IIIT-Bangalore told *The Hindu*.

By reflecting and focusing signals, RIS strengthens links in blind spots and extends the range of base stations. This helps operators reduce the number of towers needed without compromising the quality of service.

"For everyday users, that means fewer call drops and faster internet speeds, especially in hard-to-reach areas, like crowded city blocks or indoor spaces," Prof. Das explained.

Drawbacks

RIS does face hurdles. In case of fast-moving users, like people in cars, trains, or drones, signals change too quickly, making it hard for the panels to keep up. This can lead to delays or weaker connections. To solve this, researchers are developing predictive beamforming and AI-based mobility tracking that anticipates user movement and adjusts signals automatically.

Prof. Das noted that to work effectively, RIS must be coordinated with nearby base stations. This requires updates to existing network protocols and control signalling. IIIT-B researchers are working on building AI-driven systems that automatically adjust the panels in real time, ensuring smooth performance without manual intervention.

The institute's next research directions include developing software-defined RIS with AI-driven control and testing multiple panels working together to further boost performance.

The design can also block unwanted signals in certain directions, helping reduce interference.

Doddasaggere botanical garden in State sees rise in number of species

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

A botanical park being developed by the Horticulture Department at Doddasaggere in Tumakuru district, modelled on the Lal Bagh in Bengaluru, has reportedly seen a significant rise in the number of species.

As per an Avifauna Survey conducted at the Doddasaggere Botanical Garden, 75 bird species were recorded in March 2025, a significant rise from 35 in 2021.

The documented birds include two near-threatened and one vulnerable species, along with five long-distance winter migrants.

Indian Cricket Frog spotted at Doddasaggere Botanical Park in Tumakuru district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Green cover

"The Doddasaggere Botanical Garden, planned to be developed on 228 acres, will be the second biggest botanical garden in Karnataka, the first being Lal Bagh in Bengaluru, and the third biggest in India," said M. Jagadeesh, Joint Director of Horticulture (Parks & Gardens) at Lalbagh Botanical Garden.

About 120 acres have been developed so far. In collaboration with IT services company Mphasis and non-profit United Way of Bengaluru, an afforestation drive was taken up on 14 acres within the garden, where 1 lakh saplings of 77 native tree species were planted to recreate a dense dry deciduous forest.

"When we started the work, it was a barren piece of land. Now, we have spotted nearly 80 types of birds, and close to 50 species of animals, reptiles, butterflies, and bees," said Mr. Jagadeesh.

The species sighted include Pallid Harrier, Asian Woolly Neck, River Tern, Booted Warbler, Green Sandpiper, Lesser Whitethroat and Tawny Pipit, among others. Over time, the forest cover in the park is expected to sequester approximately 2,100 tonnes of carbondioxide and release around 10,000 tonnes of oxygen annually.

"We looked at what the country's pressing needs were, and carbon sequestration and oxygen generation were among the critical ones. We explored the projects that could help achieve these goals and reached out to a few partners, including United Way. The afforestation drive in Doddasagare Park is one such initiative," said Deepa Nagaraj, Head of ESG and CSR at Mphasis.

Rajesh Krishnan, CEO at United Way of Bengaluru, added that the afforestation would also help recharge groundwater, prevent soil erosion and improve soil fertility.

"It will support the preservation of 47 native tree species, and provide food and shelter for over 75 species of birds, 14 species of butterflies, 11 species of reptiles and 11 species of amphibians," he said.

The park comprises 17 blocks, including a bird block, a fragrance block, a palmetum and a nutrition garden with nearly 400 types of fruiting plants.

According to Mr. Jagadeesh, emphasis was laid on soil and water conservation, given the low rainfall Tumakuru receives.

"We are constructing checkpoints, water tanks and mini dams inside the park. Already, we have constructed three very big ponds and several check bunds. In addition to that, we have four borewells. The water yield is very good. We irrigate all the existing planted trees through drip irrigation and use mulching technique to conserve water," he said.

Will AI fix India's energy demand or will its own needs snowball?

A report estimates that annual global demand for data centre capacity may increase by 19 to 22% from 2023 to 2030, reaching 171 to 219 GW compared to the current demand of 60 GW; this would require building twice the capacity built since 2000 within a quarter of that time frame

T.V. Padma

As artificial intelligence (AI) and its attendant data demand continue to expand in India and worldwide, a curious dilemma has arisen: will AI help transform energy delivery for the better or will the data centres crucial to its operations impose a new burden on the world's power grid?

In a 2024 report, the International Energy Agency (IEA) highlighted the growing interconnections between energy and AI worldwide. It projected that demand from data centres would more than double by 2030 to around 945 TWh and that AI would be the principal driver. The demand from AI-optimised data centres was projected to more than quadruple by 2030.

A McKinsey report has also estimated that the annual global demand for data centre capacity could rise at 19-22% from 2023 to 2030, reaching 171-219 GW, against the total current demand of 60 GW. To avoid a deficit, at least twice as much data centre capacity built since 2000 will have to be in place in less than a quarter of the time.

Given AI's significant hunger for computing power, energy demand is naturally increasing, Anwesha Sen, an assistant programme manager at Takshashila University studying the impact of technology policy and AI on society, said. She is, however, optimistic that it's "not as drastic when compared to other energy-intensive industries".

Worldwide, data centres consume 1-2% of total power and that's expected to increase to 3-4% by 2030. To compare, the steel industry consumes around 7% of total power, Ms. Sen said.

AI has been deployed in India to forecast and optimise hybrid solar-wind-battery plants and ensure 24/7 access to renewable energy while minimising grid stress. ALESSANDRO VENTURI/UNSPLASH

Pressure, and potential

According to McKinsey, India's data centre demand is projected to increase from 1.2 GW in 2024 to 4.5 GW by 2030, driven largely by AI and digital adoption across sectors.

Mumbai accounts for 41% of the data centre capacity, followed by Chennai (23%) and the National Capital Region (14%).

AI-driven data centres in India are projected to consume an additional 40-50 TWh of electricity annually by 2030, according to Raghu Raman, Professor and Dean at the School of Business at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.

The increasing adoption of AI and digital technologies in India is contributing to a significant rise in energy demand, especially in already energy-intensive sectors like real estate, Vimal Nadar, national director of research at the Mumbai-based India office of Colliers, a global investment company, said. India is the third-largest energy consumer worldwide, after China and the U.S., with coal, crude oil, and natural gas comprising the bulk of its energy mix.

The energy consumption of data centres is imposing huge pressure on energy systems worldwide, Anish De, global head for Energy, Natural Resources, and Chemicals at KPMG, said, adding: "India will not be any different."

According to Ms. Sen, an equal concern is the correspondingly increasing demand for freshwater required to cool the servers in these data centres.

That said, there is scope to press AI to the service of smarter energy management as well.

"AI is playing a pivotal role in transforming how energy is delivered, utilised, and managed, both globally and within India," Mr. Nadar said.

On the one hand, AI could help develop energy transition technologies and as well as new materials that mitigate India's dependence on critical minerals it currently has to import from abroad, Dr. De said by way of example.

"It will also aid faster project development. This is already playing out in the main geographies and will propagate to others quickly," he added. "We will see energy efficiency and resource efficiency gains that will also be substantial, though not enough to offset the demand. AI itself will support the gains in expansion of clean energy."

On the flip side, carbon emissions will also increase. "Despite best efforts it is practically impossible to meet this demand from renewables, both from quality and quantity standpoints," according to Dr. De.

The IEA also noted in its report that AI "could intensify some energy security strains" as "cyberattacks on energy utilities have tripled in the past four years and become more sophisticated because of AI," even as AI tools are becoming critical for energy companies to defend against such attacks.

Renewables rescue

As energy demand intensifies, real estate stakeholders are increasingly prioritising energy efficiency, sustainability, and emission reduction in both new developments and retrofitting of existing assets, Mr. Nadar said.

"Concurrently, there is a growing emphasis on renewable energy adoption. Real estate developers are increasingly incorporating rooftop solar solutions and solar-integrated building systems, further reducing the sector's reliance on conventional energy sources."

> It is practically impossible to meet this demand from renewables, both from quality and quantity standpoints
>
> **ANISH DE**
>
> GLOBAL HEAD FOR ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND CHEMICALS AT KPMG

The IEA has also said a range of energy sources will be tapped to meet data centres' rising electricity needs although, according to its report, "renewables and natural gas are set to take the lead due to their cost-competitiveness and availability in key markets."

India and many other countries are taking advantage of AI to enhance energy efficiency and promote sustainable real estate practices, per Mr. Nadar. In India, the Energy Conservation Building Code and the Roadmap of Sustainable and Holistic Approach to National Energy Efficiency scheme aim to integrate AI and data analytics into smart metering, renewable energy management, and sustainable building design.

Also within the real-estate sector, AI-driven solutions like smart lighting systems, predictive HVAC optimisation, and automated building controls promise to reduce energy consumption by up to 25%. Green certifications such as GRIHA and LEED further encourage AI-based monitoring of energy and resource usage.

Data centres are also adopting AI to optimise cooling systems and server utilisation. As of April 2025, nearly one-fourth of the country's total data centre capacity in major cities had been green-certified, reflecting an explicit focus on creating sustainable infrastructure. Almost 67% of the Grade A office stock across India's top seven cities is also green-certified.

'Need some nudging'

Under the National Smart Grid Mission, AI-enabled systems manage demand and integrate renewables, enhancing grid reliability while reducing wastage, according to Raman. The Nxtra (Airtel) Data Centres use AI-powered cooling and predictive analytics to cut energy use, paired with renewable power purchase agreements to run green data centres. BrightNight's PowerAlpha AI deployed in India to forecast and optimise hybrid solar-wind-battery plants and ensure 24/7 access to renewable energy while minimising grid stress.

Tata Power ReNew Power and Hindustan Zinc both use AI for real-time load forecasting, reducing outages and optimising power supply in Mumbai, Dr. Raman added. BESCOM in Karnataka has also started using AI to detect faults and 'heal' grid sections and thus mitigate downtime. Similarly, smart meters in Uttar Pradesh have been using AI to detect power theft as well as manage demand-side issues.

"A digital energy grid approach aims to build a unified and interoperable power infrastructure, and its potential can be amplified using AI," Ms. Sen said.

She added that companies are also working to develop "sustainable AI" that uses recycled water and has higher power use efficiency.

"As the race to build the most capable AI systems has got companies investing in massive data centres, a transition of the energy grid itself to use more sustainable power sources is required and might need some nudging by governments," Ms. Sen said.

(T.V. Padma is a science journalist in New Delhi. tvpadma_10@yahoo.co.in)

Image used for representation. REUTERS

Scientists can tune the flavour of chocolates by tweaking microbes

Priyali Prakash

Did you know that, like yogurt, kimchi, and sauerkraut, chocolate is a fermented food as well? When microorganisms like bacteria and fungi ferment carbohydrates in food, they transform it without using oxygen.

Farmers usually ferment cocoa beans on the farm in wooden boxes covered with materials that regulate temperature. While cheesemakers or winemakers add microbes, cocoa beans instead benefit from microbes that arrive spontaneously from the environment, with little human help. As a result, the location strongly shapes cocoa bean fermentation, which makes the flavour profiles differ from one place to the next.

In a new study published in *Nature Microbiology*, scientists recreated cocoa bean fermentation in the lab and explored ways to make it better.

They monitored temperature and pH during cocoa bean fermentation in Colombia for two growing seasons to determine the right conditions. They chose three farms in the Santander (Colombia's leading cocoa-producing region), Huila, and Antioquia districts.

The scientists found that in Santander, bean temperatures rose after the first 24 hours, indicating microbial growth. The pH level became highly acidic in the first two days before rising again, indicating that microbes were consuming the available nutrients.

But while the pulp became less acidic, the cotyledon (the first seed leaf) became more so. The scientists also detected a negative correlation between bean temperature and cotyledon pH. Both temperature and pH changes also aligned with the colour changes that farmers traditionally use to judge how far fermentation has progressed.

Using metagenome sequencing, the team tracked microbial community dynamics and saw both bacterial and fungal diversity drop over time – a pattern previous studies have reported as well. The researchers said this decline happens because microbes break down nutrients, triggering chemical and metabolic changes. They also found that different microbes dominated at different stages of the process. The findings from Huila matched those from Santander but the dynamics in Antioquia were different.

These findings could help scientists and farmers produce chocolate with specific flavour profiles using particular starter cultures

The scientists concluded that bacteria within fermentation boxes retain a "memory" and eventually become self-sustaining sources of microbes themselves. Fungi, on the other hand, probably arrive from multiple environmental sources. This difference could help explain how the flavour of chocolate varies across regions.

The researchers also reproduced the key microbial features from Santander and Huila farms in the laboratory and observed patterns similar to those seen on the farms. However, when they removed specific members of the microbial community, the outcomes changed, implying that the composition of microbes in the box depends on the starter community and on the fermentation time.

These findings could help scientists and farmers produce chocolate with specific flavour profiles using particular starter cultures.

"We developed a robust pipeline enabling the design of fermentation starters that will contribute to the domestication of spontaneous and unpredictable microbial fermentation of cocoa occurring on farms," the scientists wrote in their paper.

"This sets the stage for the emergence of a modern chocolate industry akin to the beer or cheese industry, based on controlled cocoa fermentations, driven by synthetic microbial starters capable of robustly reproducing unique flavour attributes in cocoa beans and chocolate."

priyali.prakash@thehindu.co.in

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Scientists and pseudoscience

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

In the US, a notorious public health project in the mid-20th century allowed hundreds of Black men to go untreated for decades, despite effective medication existing, so that officials could observe the "natural course" of syphilis. What was this study called?

QUESTION 2

During the Second World War, a doctor of the paramilitary organisation Schutzstaffel was notorious for experimenting on twins at Auschwitz. He became infamous for his brutal procedures, often performed without anaesthesia, under the guise of advancing genetic and racial science. Who was this physician?

QUESTION 3

One of the co-discoverers of DNA's double helix structure later courted major controversy for claiming that the alleged differences in intelligence between races could be explained by individuals' genes — a stance that has become widely discredited and condemned. Name this scientist.

QUESTION 4

In the Soviet Union, one agronomist rose to power by rejecting Mendelian genetics in favour of theories about environmentally acquired traits. As a result, agricultural science in the country was set back and led to devastating famines. Who was this figure?

QUESTION 5

During World War II, a covert Japanese military unit in occupied Manchuria conducted gruesome wartime experiments on prisoners, including deliberately infecting them with plague and frostbite, in the name of biological warfare research. What was this unit called?

Answers to September 23 quiz:

1. Technique to recreate set of points in a wave that are in phase – **Ans: Holography**
2. Spectroscopic technique to measure molecules' vibrational modes – **Ans: Raman**
3. False 'stars' telescopes use to adjust for distorted light – **Ans: Laser guide stars**
4. Laser-based method to measure earth's surface relief – **Ans: Altimeter**
5. Gravitational-wave detectors using laser interferometers – **Ans: LIGO**

Visual: **Inertial confinement**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Anmol Agrawal | Settem Anjaneyulu

Visual: Name this Nobel laureate who, among other things, minimised the role of HIV in causing AIDS and said DNA emitted low-frequency signals that could leave a "memory" in water.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences

SIMATS

111

Top 2% Scientists 2025

by Stanford USA

2nd Highest in India.

Rank	Institution	No. of Scientists in Top 2%	Type
1	Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru	117	Public (Science & Tech)
2	Saveetha Institute of Medical & Technical Sciences (SIMATS), Chennai	111	Private
3	IIT Delhi	105	Public (IIT)
4	IIT Kharagpur	91	Public (IIT)
5	IIT Madras	75	Public (IIT)

Scan Me

SCIMAGO World Rank 07

Dentistry

QS World Rank 26

Dentistry

nirf (By MHRD, Govt. of India) GOVT OF INDIA

2 Dental | 11 Medical | 13 Research | 13 University | 19 Law | 23 Overall | 45 Engineering | 63 Management | 11/50 Innovation

Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of unauthorised statues in Andhra Pradesh

2,524 Andhra Pradesh authorities have identified unauthorised statues on government land across the State. Of these, 38 are on national highways and 815 on State highways. District Collectors have been instructed to remove them.

Number of Naxalites who have surrendered in Chhattisgarh

71 Thirty among them carried a total bounty of ₹64 lakh. All will receive ₹50,000 each as initial assistance under the State's surrender and rehabilitation policy. This group in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada included 21 women and three minors, citing disappointment with Maoist ideology. PTI

Number of street vendors evicted in Visakhapatnam

2,850 The Human Rights Forum condemned the alleged forcible eviction of street vendors by the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, calling it a violation of the Street Vendors Act, 2014. The forum said evictions were done without surveys. PTI

Number of people who died as a barrier lake burst in Taiwan

17 A decades-old barrier lake in Hualien county, Taiwan, burst after Super Typhoon Ragasa brought heavy rain. The flood washed away a bridge, swept through a town, and left streets covered in thick mud. Over 3,200 people were evacuated from areas around the barrier lake. AFP

Number of prawn farmers hit by the U.S. tariff hike in Odisha

25,000 The recent U.S. tariff increase has affected 62 seafood entrepreneurs and around 25,000 prawn farmers in Odisha, Fisheries Minister Gokulananda Mallick said. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

How are courts protecting personality rights?

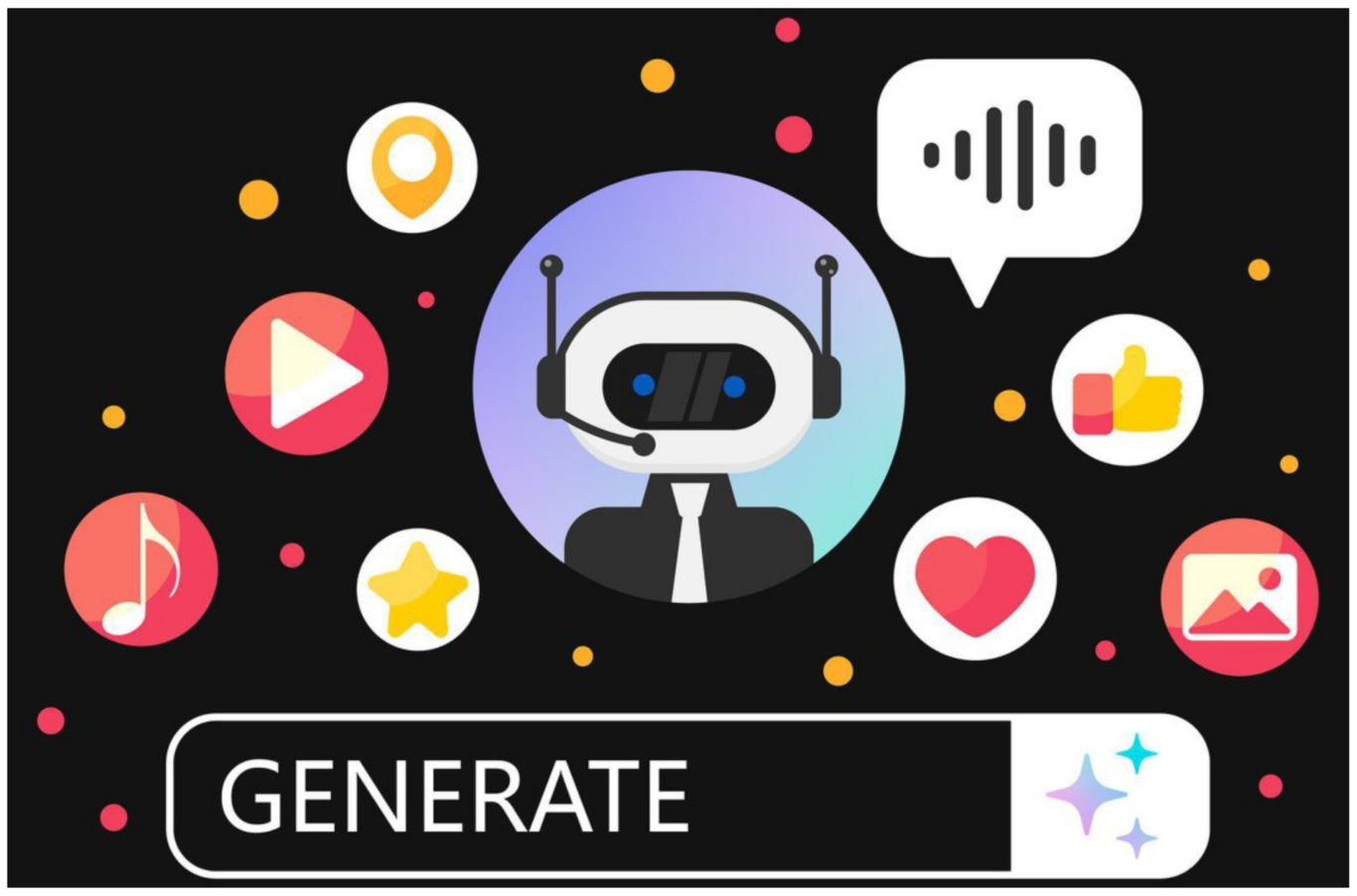
How are Bollywood actors like Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan flagging the misuse of their voices and likeness through AI-generated content? What are personality rights? Will such injunctions by the judiciary restrict free speech?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

The Delhi High Court has recently issued a series of orders protecting the personality rights of Bollywood celebrities from unauthorised commercial use. On September 9 and 10, Justice Tejas Karia granted relief to actors Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan, after they flagged the misuse of their images and voices through AI-generated content and merchandise. A week later, Justice Manmeet P.S. Arora extended similar protections to filmmaker Karan Johar, by barring the unauthorised use of his persona through deepfakes, and other digital manipulation. Actors Amitabh Bachchan, Anil Kapoor, and Jackie Shroff have already secured such protections. These petitions signal a wider push for judicial recognition of personality rights in the digital era.



GETTY IMAGES

Are personality rights protected?

Personality rights safeguard an individual's name, likeness, image, voice, signature, and other distinctive traits from unauthorised commercial exploitation. Though not codified in a single statute, personality rights in India are grounded in common law doctrines of privacy, defamation, and publicity rights, and reinforced through judicial precedents. Courts may grant injunctions, award damages, or issue takedown orders to curb misuse in advertisements, merchandise, AI-generated content, or digital platforms.

Statutory protection is dispersed across intellectual property laws. The Copyright Act, 1957, grants performers both exclusive rights under Section 38A and moral rights under Section 38B, allowing them to control how their performances are reproduced and to object to any distortion or misuse. The Trade Marks Act, 1999, permits individuals, particularly celebrities, to register distinctive attributes of their persona, such as names, signatures, or even catchphrases, as trademarks.

For instance, actors such as Shah Rukh Khan, Priyanka Chopra, Ajay Devgn, and Amitabh Bachchan have registered their names as trademarks. However, the most robust safeguard lies in the common law tort of "passing off" under Section 27 of the Act, which protects the goodwill of an unregistered mark and prevents misrepresentation that could deceive the public or imply false endorsement. This protection is neither automatic nor absolute, as courts generally require clear evidence of reputation and goodwill before granting relief.

At the heart of personality rights lies the right to autonomy and privacy rooted in Article 21 of the Constitution. When a celebrity consents to appear in a film, advertisement, or public campaign, they exercise control over their public identity. But when third parties print their image on merchandise or use AI tools to generate deepfakes or chatbots without authorisation, that autonomy is stripped away and the individual's dignity and agency are compromised.

What have courts ruled so far?

The jurisprudence on personality rights in India traces its origins to the seminal 1994 judgment in *R. Rajagopal versus State of Tamil Nadu*, where a magazine sought to publish the autobiography of Auto Shankar, a death-row convict, recounting details of his private life and alleged links with State officials. The government moved to restrain the publication on grounds of privacy and defamation. The Supreme Court recognised that individuals possess a legitimate interest in controlling the use of their identity, grounding this protection in the constitutional right to privacy. However, it clarified that remedies for privacy violations must follow publication, through actions such as defamation suits, rather than through prior restraint by the state. The court held that personal details may be published without consent if they are already part of the public record.

Two decades later, the Madras High Court crystallised the emerging doctrine in a case involving actor Rajinikanth. The lawsuit, filed against the producers of the film *Main Hoon Rajnikanth*, alleged misuse of the actor's name, image, and distinctive style of delivering dialogues. The court stressed that infringement does not require proof of falsity, confusion, or deception if the celebrity is readily identifiable, and accordingly upheld the actor's right to restrain the unauthorised commercial exploitation of his persona.

With the advent of AI, courts have had to grapple with novel threats to identity. In 2023, the Delhi High Court granted actor Anil Kapoor wide-ranging protection over his personality rights, restraining 16 online entities from exploiting his name, image, voice, likeness, or his catchphrase "*jhakaas*," which he popularised in films. Justice Prathiba Singh clarified that free speech extends to "genuine write-ups, parody, satires and criticism" but cannot be stretched to justify commercial exploitation. She cautioned that when such use "crosses the line and results in tarnishing, blackening or jeopardising the individual's personality and elements associated with them, it would be illegal." Referring to morphed images of the actor with other actresses, she said this was "not merely offensive" to him but also to third parties, adding that the court "can't turn a blind eye to such misuse," particularly where dilution and tarnishment are actionable torts. Similarly, in May 2024, the Delhi High Court protected the personality and publicity rights of actor Jackie Shroff, restraining e-commerce platforms and AI chatbots from misusing his name, image, voice, and likeness without consent. The court observed that the "unauthorised use of these characteristics for commercial purposes not only infringes upon these rights but also dilutes the brand equity painstakingly built by the plaintiff over the years."

A few months later, the Bombay High Court delivered a significant ruling in favour of singer Arijit Singh, who alleged that Codible Ventures LLP had used AI tools to create artificial recordings of his voice, a practice known as voice cloning. The court reiterated that the singer's "name, voice, image, likeness, persona and other traits" are protected under his personality rights. Expressing concern over the risks of generative AI, Justice R.I. Chagla observed, "What shocks the conscience of this court is the manner in which celebrities, particularly performers such as the present Plaintiff, are vulnerable to being targeted by unauthorised generative AI content."

To what extent can such rights curtail free expression?

Critics argue that the expansive protection of personality rights could stifle free expression.

Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to freedom of speech, which includes the creative freedom to criticise, parody, or satirise public figures. However, Indian courts have repeatedly affirmed that this right is not absolute and must be balanced against an individual's dignity and autonomy.

In *DM Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. versus Baby Gift House* (2010), the Delhi High Court dealt with a petition filed by a company to which singer Daler Mehndi had assigned his personality rights. The company had alleged that gift shops were selling dolls that were "cheap imitations of, and identical to the likeness" of Mr. Mehndi, amounting to the unauthorised commercial exploitation of his persona. While granting an injunction, Justice S. Ravindra Bhat cautioned that caricatures, lampooning, and parodies would not ordinarily infringe publicity rights. He warned that an "overemphasis on a famous person's publicity rights" could chill free speech and deprive the public of an entire genre of expression.

This principle was reaffirmed more than a decade later in *Digital Collectibles PTE Ltd. versus Galactus Funware Technology Pvt. Ltd.* (2023), which involved the unauthorised use of sports stars' likenesses despite exclusive licences held by the plaintiff.

The Delhi High Court refused to broaden publicity rights at the expense of free expression, noting that material already in the public domain could not reasonably mislead the public into believing there was an endorsement. Justice Amit Bansal clarified that the use of celebrity names or images for "lampooning, satire, parodies, art, scholarship, music, academics, news and other similar uses" is a legitimate exercise of Article 19(1)(a) and does not amount to infringement of publicity rights.

What are the concerns?

Jwalika Balaji, research fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, told *The Hindu* that a comprehensive legislative framework is the need of the hour to ensure that the enforcement of such rights is not reliant on piecemeal judicial precedents. "In the absence of a regulatory regime, responses remain fragmented and ad hoc. More importantly, there is a fine line between artistic creation and a breach of personality rights. Exceptions must be clearly identified and firmly respected, especially in times when concerns over censorship loom large," she said.

She further pointed out that personality rights are not the exclusive privilege of celebrities, since all individuals enjoy the right to privacy. "Ordinary citizens, especially women, are increasingly targeted through deepfakes and revenge pornography. Laws must be tailor-made to address this disproportionate impact on women," she said. She noted that in such cases, courts often direct the government to block URLs impersonating an individual or misusing their images without consent. However, she cautioned that tracking every such breach and acting on it remains a herculean task.

THE GIST

- Personality rights safeguard an individual's name, likeness, image, voice, signature, and other distinctive traits from unauthorised commercial exploitation.
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BPL cardholders call out 'unscientific' drive

Sources in the Consumer Affairs Dept. say no BPL cards have been cancelled yet, except in cases where a person holds two cards in different States

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Slum residents and workers staging a demonstration in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Tension looms large for Meenamma, a 60-year-old resident of Janatha Colony in West Bengaluru diagnosed with breast cancer, after her neighbours received notices about the cancellation of their BPL cards due to their sons' salaries exceeding the stipulated income limit.

Although Meenamma has not yet received a notice, she fears the news could come at any moment, which would mean she could no longer use her BPL card to access essential medicines.

"My three sons left me and are living separately, but their names are still linked to all my identity cards, which shows that I will be above the poverty line; however, the reality is different. I am afraid they will cancel my card as they did to my friends," Ms. Meenamma lamented. Meanwhile, those who have received notices worry about losing their ration in the coming months, which would add to their financial burden.

Ms. Meenamma was among more than 50 people who gathered near the Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs on Wednesday to submit a memorandum to the Commissioner, highlighting what they term as "unscientific" implementation of the cancellation drive.

The memorandum pointed out a major flaw in the process, noting that the income criteria for BPL cards were set in 2017, but since then the cost of essential commodities had risen significantly. It questioned how the same outdated income limit could still be applied to determine BPL eligibility.

It further stated that BPL cards provided access to various benefits, including student scholarships, treatment in government hospitals, and medicines. If cancellations were carried out unscientifically, poor families would face severe hardship.

The memorandum cited examples of lapses in implementation. An Uber driver's card was cancelled because he owns a four-wheeler. Many contract workers, who lack permanent jobs, earn a salary of around ₹15,000, but since TDS is deducted from their pay, their cards have been cancelled, citing that they are paying tax, which means they are above the poverty line. However, these workers often go months without employment and rely on BPL cards for rations. Additionally, many families have not collected rations for two months due to store closures. Now, those who have not taken rations are being classified as above the poverty line, the memorandum said.

Muniyamma, a 60-year-old resident of Halegudadahalli with a heart condition, depends on her BPL card for medicines.

"I used to work as a ragpicker, and my thumbprint is not recognised by the fingerprint system. Since I haven't collected rations for a few months, they may cancel my card. Where should I go now?" she asked.

Govindamma, 57, faces the same problem. Similarly, Sagay Mary, 58, said she was denied a ration on Tuesday after being told her BPL card had been cancelled.

However, sources in the Consumer Affairs Department said no BPL cards have been cancelled yet, except in cases where a person holds two cards in different States.

"We are currently focusing only on people with duplicate cards. If anyone is wrongly rejected, they can file a complaint on the 1967 helpline," the source said.

The source further clarified that the department is not verifying all cards but only those among the over 7 lakh dubious cards flagged by the Central government. If a name is wrongly deleted, the affected person can approach the tahsildar and submit an application, which will be reviewed, and re-addition will be made.

GBA chief directs officials to initiate survey at the earliest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao on Wednesday directed officials to initiate the Social and Educational Survey in the GBA limits at the earliest.

Chairing a virtual meeting of the Backward Classes Commission, the GBA chief instructed enumerators from various departments to begin fieldwork without delay after undergoing training at respective urban corporations. He said the survey must be carried out in coordination with all civic departments, and called for the involvement of ASHA workers. "Nodal officers have been appointed to supervise the survey work, while corporation Commissioners have been tasked with inspecting training sites," he said, warning that disciplinary action would be taken under the Survey Act against those failing to participate.

GBA Special Commissioner Munish Moudgil said additional enumerators were being deployed and ward-level plans have been drawn up to ensure accuracy. Random checks will be conducted during the exercise to monitor the progress of the survey.

R. Ashok, Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly, filling potholes as a protest against the poor condition of roads in Bengaluru on Wednesday. PTI

BJP stages protest by filling potholes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP on Wednesday took up a symbolic pothole-filling campaign in a few areas of Bengaluru city to draw the government's attention to the bad condition of roads and demanded that the government allocate ₹10,000 crore for asphalting of all the roads in the city.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok, who led the campaign in Basavanagudi area, demanded that instead of merely filling up potholes, the government should take up asphalting so that the roads could become motorable again.

"Let the government provide a one-time grant of ₹10,000 crore for the asphalting of roads in Bengaluru. Otherwise, we may have to conclude that the government has become financially bankrupt," Mr. Ashok said.

The BJP leader accused Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who has blamed the erstwhile BJP government for not properly building and maintaining roads, of being insensitive to the problems of people. "The government should stop blaming the erstwhile BJP dispensation for the present problems as it has been over two and a half years since the Congress came to power in the State," he remarked.

Mr. Ashok appealed to general public to fill up the potholes in their area by themselves as a symbolic protest.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the General Public that our client intends to purchase portion of the 'Schedule Property' from its owner Smt. Jyoti Basavanagouda Patil @ Jyoti Channabasanagouda Hudedagoudra D/o Basanagouda AND 1) Shri. M.S. Akshar S/o B.K. Srinivasa, 2) Shri. D. Kantha S/o Dasashetty, 3) Shri. Madan G Purohit S/o Gururaj S Purohit and 4) Shri. Shivanagouda Patil C/o Hanumantha Gowda, Agreement Holders through Agreement of Sale dated 04.04.2025 vide registered as document No.KNK-1-00239-2025-26 of Book-I on 05.04.2025, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Kanakapura.

Any person/s, Society/s, Association/s, Government Authority/s, Financial Institution/s, Bank/s, Judicial Authorities asserting any right, title interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the schedule property or the Documents thereof or objecting to such sale in favour of our client should write or contact us **within 07 days** from the date of issuance of this public notice, with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to the Schedule Property or any part thereof, after which period, our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and Parcel of the Immovable property being Agricultural dry land bearing New Sy. No. 21/4 (Old Sy. No. 21/3), an extent of 2 Acres 15 Guntas of Makkalanda Village, Uyyamballi Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and bounded on the: **East by:** Government Land, **West by:** Land in Sy. No. 22/2 & 22/3, **North by:** Remaining portion of land in Sy. No. 21/2, **South by:** Property belonging to Smt. Kempamma.

Sd/- **M/S A.K.VASANTH & ASSOCIATES, A.K. VASANTH, D.V. GIRISH, UMESHA.A, ADVOCVATES**
No. 201 & 202, 2nd Floor, Jayam Shopping Centre, Sampige Road (B/w 7th and 8th Cross), Malleswaram, Bengaluru- 560 003.
Date: 24.09.2025 Bengaluru

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023,
Telephone No.080-29557023 E-mail:cekhsdrp@gmail.com

No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1/AE-3/HWC & BPHU Hassan Sub Div/TND/2025-26/2180 Date: 24.09.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in two Cover tender document system through Karnataka Public Procurement portal for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of works	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lakh)	EMD (Rs. In Lakh)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Construction of Health and Wellness Centers at 1) Kataradahali in Chikkamagaluru Taluk, 2) Bhaktharahalli in Chikkamagaluru Taluk, 3) Pillenahalli in Kadur Taluk, 4) Haadikere in Tarikere Taluk, 5) Bappunji in Koppa Taluk, 6) Hodiyala in N.R. Pura Taluk, 7) Kunnalu in Chikkamagaluru District **(Call-5).**	380.00	5.70	6 Months
2	Construction of Block Level Public Health Unit at GH Tarikere, GH Kadur in Chikkamagaluru District and GH Sakaleshpura, GH Alur in Hassan District **(Call-3).**	200.00	3.00	6 Months

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **08.10.2025 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **09.10.2025 at 16.30 hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP portal platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the KPPP platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. **(2)** Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients are desirous to develop all that piece and parcel of industrial converted land being portion of Survey No. 39/3, situated at Bandapura Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore measuring in all about 02 Acres 4 ¼ Guntas, there being no kharab ("Schedule Property") from present owner R.N. Shashank son of late R.S. Nagendra Kumar ("Owner").

Any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner whatsoever or having any claim against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or against the Owner or objecting to such transaction with our clients, should write to the undersigned within fifteen (15) days from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to Schedule Property or any part thereof, after which period our clients shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of industrial converted land being portion of Survey No. 39/3, situated at Bandapura Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore measuring in all about 02 Acres 4 ¼ Guntas, there being no kharab and bounded as follows:a

EAST	:	Konadasapura Village Boundary;
WEST	:	Land bearing Survey No. 39/2;
NORTH	:	Remaining portion of Survey No. 39/3;
SOUTH	:	Bangalore-Hoskote Road;

Sd/-
(R. Sunitha)
Advocate - CMS INDUSLAW,
#101, 1st Floor, Embassy Classic, #11,
Vittal Mallya Road, Bangalore 560 001.
Phone No.080 40726600.

Date: 23-09-2025
Place: Bengaluru

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SYEDA Tabasum Zahera, W/o Mir Ziyafath Ali, R/at Alipur Gouribidanur Taluq, Chikkaballapur Dist., Karnataka have changed my name from Thabasum Zaheera to Syeda Tabasum Zahera vide affidavit dated 23-09-2025 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru

PERSONAL

THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING

Thank you Infant Jesus for prayers answered & blessings received.
- Vincen John and Family

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VENKATA SURYANARAYANA GRANDHI,** House No A-14, Owners Court East, Kasavanahalli, Kaikondrahalli, Carmelaram Post, Bengaluru have changed the name of my son from **GRANDHI SUBBARAO NIKHIL** and **G.S. NIKHIL** to **NIKHIL GRANDHI,** vide affidavit dated 22-09-2025 before notary **K.V. JAGANNATH REDDY,** Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS to inform that my client Mr. B J Shiva Kumar, S/o B S S Jagadeesh Kumar, owner of the property Original Sale Deed Doc No–4975/1998–99, Katha No.516/486 at Bommanahalli, Bengaluru–560068 registered in the office of Sub registrar South Bangalore, aforesaid original document has been lost/misplaced on 22/9/25. If anyone finds above document kindly contact Ph: 9663862818 Raghavendra. S (Advocate) ph:8904576320

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
www:eepwdmys21@gmail.com ದೂ.ಸಂ./ಫ್ಯಾನಸ: 0821–2420810

ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ:15/2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.09.2025

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರಿಂದ ಈ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:8443–ತೇವಣಿವಂತಿಕೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡ ಮೈಸೂರು ನಗರದ ಭಾರತೀಯ ರಿಸರ್ವ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಆವರಣದ ಗೇಟ್ ನಂ.1 (ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಗೇಟ್)ರ ಬಳಿ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ದ್ವಾರದ ಗೇಟ್ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3ರ ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ನಿಯಮ 2000 ರಂತೆ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (viz https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) 22.09.2025 ರಿಂದ 06.10.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17:00ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.60.35 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ.1,20,700/–ಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮುಂದುವರೆದು, ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಲು ನಿಗಧಿ ಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ 05 ತಿಂಗಳು. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡಿಕೆ/ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಬೇಕಾದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಅಥವಾ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR/DDMYS/1003/KSMCA/540/2025-26

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, SEP. 25		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:13
RISE	08:42	SET 20:24
FRIDAY, SEP. 26		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:13
RISE	09:32	SET 21:06
SATURDAY, SEP. 27		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:12
RISE	10:23	SET 21:52

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	24
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	27	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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Karnataka Public Work Department
(A Government of KarnatakaEnterprises) O/O Executive Engineer PWD Division, Hosapete, Dist:-Vijayanagara

No:EE/PWD/Dn/Hosapete/TND/ JE-2 /2025-26/ 2100 Date:- 22.09.2025

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Tenders are invited by undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara Dist, for the works notified in the statement below. The bid shall be in One or Two Cover system namely technical bid and financial bid through KPP Portal, following the link **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sl. No	Work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)	Sl. No	Work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)
THIS WORK IS RESERVED FOR SC CATOGERY					
1	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT26909/CALL-2	46.00	2	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT23290	100.00
THIS WORK IS RESERVED FOR ST CATOGERY					
3	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25784/CALL-2	25.00			
THIS WORK IS RESERVED FOR CATOGERY-2A					
4	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT27661/CALL-2	4.80	5	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT23104	100.00
General Works					
6	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT26236/CALL-2	52.77	10	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT22765	100.00
7	PWD/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT21858/CALL-2	45.30	11	PWD/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT20022	125.00
8	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25564/CALL-2	40.65	12	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT27818	300.00
9	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT24787/CALL-2	18.22	13	PWD/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT18625 /CALL-2	250.00

		From Sl.No 1 to 11	From Sl No 12 to 13
1	Quarries of Tender On	As Per kppp Portal.	As Per kppp Portal.
2	Last Date of Tender Submission On	04.10.2025 @ 16.00 Hours	17.10.2025 @ 16.00 Hours
3	Tender Opening date On	06.10.2025 @ 16.30 Hours	18.10.2025 @ 16.30 Hours
4	Financial Bid Opening Date	As Per kppp Portal.	As Per kppp Portal.

Note: Any Changes Either in Tender date or any other condition , Tenderers can view in kppp Portal and Will not be published in News Paper.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara District.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/271

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
M.I & G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR

No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-1,2,3,4/4702-2702/TND/2025-26/2180 Date: 23.09.2025

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders from Eligible Contractor through "E-Procurement" on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

4702- Major Works:- Total 1 Survey Work, Estimated Cost **Rs.3.37 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above work is One(1) Month including monsoon.**

2702- M&R Works:- Total 11 Works, Estimated Cost **Rs.442.27 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are Six(6) Months including monsoon.**

4702- SCP Works:- Total 17 Works/Package Works, Estimated Cost **Rs.126.01 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are Three(3) Months including monsoon.**

4702- TSP Works:- Total 15 Works/Package Works, Estimated Cost **Rs.90.00 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are Three(3) Months including monsoon.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka Public Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors from **24.09.2025.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in KPP portal up to **17-30 hrs.** on **04.10.2025.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or KPPP helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17-30 hrs.** on **03.10.2025.** Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MI & GWDD Division,
Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/360/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

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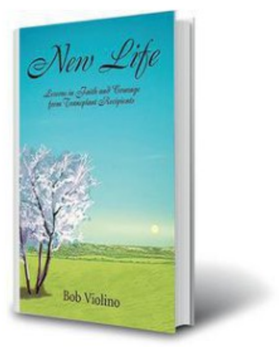
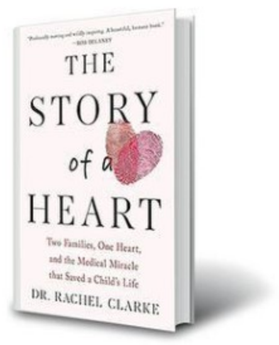
ISSN 0971 - 751X

BIBLIOGRAPHY





Transforming act: A woman signs on a board, taking a pledge ahead of World Organ Donation Day to donate organs, at Juhu Beach in Mumbai on August 10. ANI

How to start conversations around life, death and organ donation

Relative to India's population, the organ donation rate in India remains low. Here is a reading list that educates and empowers all to make an informed choice about the life-saving contribution as we approach World Heart Day on September 29

Soma Basu

English professor and former head of the Humanities and Social Sciences department at IIT Bombay, Viney Kirpal, has lived through cancer since 2007 and a heart transplant in 2018 at the age of 69. Her story is of a life-changing journey of hope, courage, and transformation. Her body was battered twice, treated, gifted, and healed. Organ recipients like her possibly understand the responsibility of honouring the gift they have received by living with care, gratitude, and purpose.

The critical importance of organ transplantation which gives life a second chance, and helps carry the legacy of selfless donors made Kirpal call out to lung, heart, kidney and liver recipients in support groups in 2024. Soon, she had stories of transformative journeys from 27 transplant recipients, including four doctor recipients and a living donor.

Staggering numbers

Quite befittingly, her book *New Life. New Beginnings: Compelling Stories by Organ Recipients, Donors and Doctors* (Sterling Publishers) has come out now as we celebrate World Heart Day on September 29. The heartfelt narratives blend candour and compassion to show the power of second chances and how transplant surgery impacts the lives of all those involved in the process. "There is a need to break the silence around organ donation and transplants. People believe transplant recipients live in the disease. But actually, we lead our lives like all others do," writes Kirpal.

In 2024, India recorded the highest number of organ transplants. The leap was significant from less than 5,000 in 2013 to 18,900 last year. But the numbers were dwarfed by the 63,000 individuals on the waiting list for kidney transplants; 50,000 for heart and another 22,000 for liver transplants, according to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The challenge of demand-supply has remained unmitigated with India's organ donation rate falling below 1%.

In real terms, it means that we are unable to act enough to save more lives. On the brighter side, the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation has so far registered 3.30 lakh citizens online pledging their organs ever since the website's launch in 2023. While the public participation has been heartwarming, not everyone on the waiting list is able to receive an organ in time. Lack of awareness, myths and misunderstanding about organ donation and transplantation adds to the widening gap annually. It is time to bring the conversation to the table, and books can perhaps convey this act of altruism powerfully.

Kirpal's book is a rare collection of stories direct from the heart of multi-organ recipients who have been lucky to get a second chance. They talk about their experiences, harrowing to moving, when told that no medicine can cure organ failure and the challenges they faced in financing a transplant. Each survivor movingly narrates how they are alive due to a silent hero's gift, and how they carefully balance their post-transplant life with continuous medical vigilance. Their return to life inspires them to pay back as advocates of organ donation.

In *New Life: Lessons in Faith and Courage from Transplant Recipients* (iUniverse, 2003), Bob Violino highlights how difficult situations can be turned into positive experiences with faith, perseverance, and strength. The book gathers stories of recipients who have life-threatening illnesses and how they overcame obstacles to lead generous and remarkable lives. The uplifting accounts are motivating for not only transplant candidates, recipients, and their families, but everybody faced with any adversity.

Driven by compassion

Organ donation and transplantation is like an exchange driven by compassion where one death gets postponed in a leap of faith. Inspired by a true story, palliative care doctor and author Rachel Clarke gives a riveting account in *Story of a Heart: Two Families, One Heart, and the Medical Miracle That Saved a Child's Life* (Scribner, 2024). She interweaves the history of medical innovations behind transplant surgery with the story of two children: Max, who desperately needs a new heart after valiantly fighting a viral infection, and nine-year-old Keira, an accident victim with catastrophic brain injuries.

In an act of extraordinary generosity, parents and siblings of Keira agree that the child would have wanted to be an organ donor. When the recipient's family receives the call they had been waiting for, they knew it came at a terrible cost to another family. The author describes it as the "brutal arithmetic of transplant surgery." The act of Keira's heart resuming its rhythm inside Max's body was a medical miracle involving the knowledge and dedication not just of surgeons but of countless nurses and technicians, immunologists and paramedics. It paved the way for changing U.K.'s laws around organ donation.

The Gift That Heals: Stories of Hope, Renewal And Transformation Through Organ and Tissue Donation by Reg Green (Author House 2007) chronicles lives that came out of death. It is about the revival of a police officer, who was left for dead in a hail of bullets; about a woman, dependent on oxygen due to damaged lungs, going on to climb 5,000 feet; and a man returning from near-death to become an Olympic champion.

Green, an American, compiled these stories, after his seven-year-old son was shot in an attempted robbery while the family was on vacation in Italy. He and his wife donated their son's organs and corneas to seven Italians and their story captured the imagination of the world.

There is a radical kindness in one person's generosity in death. This is what the books capture and convey – that no other part of the human body matches the metaphorical richness of the human heart.

It takes a heart to donate and accept organs. It is the heart that keeps life going. As long as it continues to beat, there is hope.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the peculiarities of journalism on the occasion of the 113th birth anniversary of the Columbia Journalism School

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

While the term 'tabloid journalism' is more common in the U.K., the same practices in the U.S. are called _____ journalism, typified by articles in the *New York World* from 1883. The label comes from the name of a comic first published in the World. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

X is the term used to describe the excessively abbreviated language common in journalism, such as "inked a pact" or "quizzed a man". Passive voice is also included among these habits, which are considered undesirable. Name X.

QUESTION 3

Y journalism is a reporting style common in democracies that treat journalism as the fourth estate. It treats the powerful with scepticism, confronts them aggressively, and prioritises exposing wrongdoing rather than maintaining cooperative relationships with sources. What is Y?

QUESTION 4

____-_____ journalism describes partisan or corporate-funded outlets that produce low-quality, misleading content disguised as community reporting. The word, coined in 2012, comes from a filler material in processed meats. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

The American journalist Hunter S. Thompson popularised _____ journalism — a subjective style where reporters immerse themselves in the story, blending fact and personal experience in vivid, first-person narratives that disregard objectivity. Thompson in particular believed objective journalism is a myth. Fill in the blank.

Visual question:
Identify this man, who is closely related to the theme of today's quiz. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The term popularised by Fitzgerald which depicted the flamboyance and excess mainly in the period between 1920 and early 1930s. **Ans: Jazz Age**
2. Fitzgerald took inspiration for the title of *This Side of Paradise* from a line in a poem written by this poet. **Ans: Rupert Brooke**
3. Fitzgerald frequented Europe after he established himself as a serious writer and befriended many artists. They were named this. **Ans: Lost Generation**
4. The name of the 1938 film written by Fitzgerald. **Ans: *Three Comrades***
5. American socialite Ginevra King inspired this character in Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. **Ans: Daisy Buchanan**
6. This 2008 American romantic fantasy drama film was adapted from this Fitzgerald short story of the same name. **Ans: *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button***
Visual: Name this painting. **Ans: This is the cover of *The Great Gatsby*. It's called 'Celestial Eyes'**
Early Birds: Parimal Das| Arun Kumar Singh| Suchit Narottam| Rownak Mondal| Prashansa Lohumi

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

Upendran

"How was the movie?"

"It was action packed. The hero enters into a room and beats up 50 people."

"Incredible! I wonder when they'll stop making such senseless movies. By the way, you don't 'enter into a room', you 'enter a room'."

"But you say, Ramesh ran into the room...."

"... that's true. You 'run into', 'walk into', 'crawl into', 'go into' and 'come into' a room. But you don't 'enter into' a room. You enter something. For example, the Minister entered the hotel."

"The unruly crowd entered the theatre and started shouting."

"That's a good example. The students who entered the examination hall looked worried."

"At this time of the year all students look worried. But tell me, do we ever say 'enter into'?"

"Yes, we do. We 'enter into' an agreement or arrangement. For example, our company entered into an agreement with an Italian firm last month."

"Can I say the BJP entered into an alliance with the AIADMK?"

"You certainly can. You can also enter into a 'discussion' or an 'argument'. For example, the Management refused to enter into negotiations with the Union."

"My father refused to enter into a discussion with our landlord."

"My boss entered into an argument with the Chairman."

"Your boss would. Tell me, which is correct? My friend lives on College Station Road, or My friend lives in College Station Road?"

"Both are correct. Some books say that the British tend to use 'in'. For example, the shop is in Prince Avenue."

"The Americans tend to use 'on' I suppose?"

"That's right. My brother lives on Prince Avenue."

"While we are on the subject of 'in', is there a difference between Prakash walked into the room and Prakash walked in the room?"

"Yes, there is. The first sentence, Prakash walked into the room, means Prakash entered the room."

"I see. So if I said, Akash ran into the garden, it would mean Akash entered the garden running."

"That's right! The second sentence, Prakash walked in the room implies that Prakash was already inside the room and he..."

"...in other words, he wasn't entering it."

"Right again. Prakash was already inside the room and he was walking around."

"So the sentence, Akash ran in the garden means that Akash was already in the garden when he started to run."

"Exactly!"

"I think I understand now. I think I'd better run along. See you."

Published in The Hindu on March 24, 1998.

Word of the day

Untrammelled:
not confined or limited

Usage: *He could give us the gift of a fresh eye and untrammelled curiosity.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/untrammelledpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ʌnˌtræməld/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

State's Social and Educational Survey is nothing but 'census cloaked as survey', Centre tells HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Union government on Wednesday told the High Court of Karnataka that the constitutional provisions envisages a single authoritative census [by the Central government] under the Census Act, while describing the ongoing Social and Educational survey undertaken by the State government as "census cloaked as survey".

This submission was made before a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Joshi during the hearing on a batch of petitions, which have challenged the legality of the conduct of the survey to collect details of caste, religion, social and educational status of all citizens of Karnataka through the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.

Appearing for the Centre, Additional Solicitor-General of India Arvind Kamath said the Centre had already notified the Census, which also involved enumeration of castes, and the State government, through the present survey, had strayed into the domain of the Centre.

Mr. Kamath also clarified to the court if the State government was conducting a survey, it had to be a issue-specific.

As Commission's advocate claimed that there was no compulsion for the people to disclose the information to the enumerators, the Bench asked under what authority the electricity meter readers were empowered to affix stickers and whether enumerators were clearly informing the people, prior to collecting information, that it was not mandatory for them to disclose the information.

Meanwhile, the State government claimed that contemporaneous data was essential for framing and implementing welfare schemes while pointing out that the apex court, in its right to privacy issue on Aadhaar, had permitted the government to collect data for welfare purposes.

Further hearing will continue on Thursday on the plea of the petitioner for staying the survey.

Kin of 100 deceased employees from Health Dept. given appointment letters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Wednesday handed over appointment orders on compassionate grounds to the family members of 100 Health department employees, who passed away before retirement.

Currently, 116 beneficiaries have been provided jobs under the scheme, with 60 more cases pending. The Minister assured that these would be resolved soon. He also commended the department.

EXHIBIT/VISIT
IPVS INDUSTRIAL PUMPS, VALVES & SYSTEMS
Industrial Pumps, Valves & Systems Exhibition
13 | 14 | 15 NOV 2025 | CHENNAI
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
• 100+ Exhibitors • Latest Products & Innovations
• 5000+ Trade Visitors • B2B Conference
• Buyer-Seller Meet • 7+ Countries Delegation
SCAN & REGISTER
ORGANISED BY Orbit Exhibitions Pvt. Ltd. | ASSOCIATE PARTNER siema, IPMA INDIAN PUMP MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION | TRAVEL PARTNER Tibro TRADE FAIRS
Contact 9819332288|9769292959|8177053335
info@orbitexhibitions.com | www.ipvs.in
P 004.25

4 held for abducting mason, robbing him at gunpoint

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Peenya police have arrested a gang of four for allegedly abducting a mason on the pretext of offering him a lift in their car, and robbing ₹5,000 and two mobile phones from him at gunpoint.

The accused, identified as Kanakamurthy, Kiran, Srikanth, and Moula Sab Sheikh, were tracked down to their house in Mallathalli.

The victim, a native of Vijayapura who worked in Bengaluru, was waiting for a bus to reach Jalahalli Cross.

The accused reportedly approached him offering a drop to the location. After the victim agreed, the accused allegedly drove the car to an isolated place in Dobbspet, threatened the victim at gun-point and robbed the cash and two mobile phones before fleeing the spot.

The police seized a countrymade pistol, which was reportedly used by the accused to threaten the victim, a police officer said.

GST Rate Reduction on Cement
Effective September 22, 2025

The GST rate on Cement (Tariff Heading 2523) has been reduced from 28% to 18%, effective **September 22, 2025.** In line with this change, **The India Cements Ltd** has passed on the benefit of the reduced GST rate to its customers and revised the MRP. The updated MRP list is available on our official **website www.indiacements.co.in.** We have also advised our channel partners to reflect the GST rate reduction in their respective sale prices, ensuring the benefit reaches end consumers.

Government of India

A decade of Self-reliance
A decade of Make in India

The Big Leap
- India is now the **world's 2nd largest** mobile phone manufacturer
- Electronics production jumped from ₹1.9 lakh crore to **₹11.3 lakh crore**

A Swadeshi Revolution
- India proudly made its **first swadeshi semiconductor chip**
- **₹76,000 crore** Semiconductor Mission boosting self-reliance

A Proud Defence Exporter
- India is now exporting defence equipment to **over 100 countries**
- Production rose **225%** - from ₹46,430 crore to **₹1.5+ lakh crore**

Pharmacy of the world
- India is the world's **3rd largest** drug producer by volume
- Indian medicines reach **200+ countries**

A Historic Surge
- Exponential growth in vehicle production with **over 2.8 crore** units manufactured in 2023-24
- Auto components industry almost **doubled in the last 5 years**

An Era of Innovation
- From Job-seeker to Job-giver, **India's 1.8+ lakh startups** have created **17.6+ lakh jobs**
- India is now home to **118 unicorns**

CBC 44101/13/0010/2526
Say with Pride - This is Swadeshi

APPOINTMENT

CSIR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY
Uppal Road, Tarnaka, Hyderabad – 500 007
Telangana State, India https://www.iict.res.in

Advertisement No. 04/2025 **Dated: 25.09.2025**

Starting date for Submission of Online Application : **01.10.2025 at 09.00 AM onwards**

Last Date for receipt/submission of Online Application : : **30.10.2025 at 11.59 PM**

A Unique opportunity for Research/S&T Management careers in Science & Technology

CSIR strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and Women candidates are encouraged to apply

Applications are invited from enthusiastic, young Indian researchers having excellent academic record and proven achievements with requisite experience and a high degree of motivation and desire to take up Research/S&T Management as a career to fill up the vacancy of following posts of scientists as per the details given below:

Designation	No. of Posts & Reservation	Pay Level (As per 7th CPC)	Total Emoluments (As per 7th CPC)	Upper Age Limit not exceeding (as on the last date of submission of online application as mentioned in the Advt.)
Scientist	Total No. of Posts : 07 UR - 03 EWS - 01 OBC(NCL) -02 UR-PwBD (HH) - 01	Level - 11	Rs.1,34,907/- * approx.. (inclusive of Basic Pay, DA, HRA, TA etc.)	32** years

*Total Emoluments means approximate total emoluments on minimum of Pay Level, Dearness Allowance (DA), House Rent Allowance (HRA), Transport Allowance (TA) etc. in Class 'X' City.

**Please see Sl.No.3 of General Information and conditions for age relaxations.

For further details please visit our website http://www.iict.res.in/CAREERS and apply through the online application form available there. The detailed advertisement, terms and conditions and instructions to the candidates are available on the website.

Sd/-
Controller of Administration

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH

(Govt. of Karnataka - Reg. Autonomous Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 069.
Ph.: +91-80-22977666/276/433/216/217
Tele Fax:080-26534625/477 | e-mail: director.sjicr@gmail.com

No. SJICR/2025-26/SE0024 Date: 23.09.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender for operation of laundry equipment with skilled manpower at SJICR, Kalaburagi in two bid system from eligible tenderers through KPP portal of Government of Karnataka.

1. The tenderers can download the documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **24.09.2025** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **09.10.2025 up to 4:00 PM.**
2. Pre bid meeting **30.09.2025.**
3. Date of Technical Bid opening: **10.10.2025 at 4:00 PM.**
4. EMD: as mentioned in the tender document.
5. For further details, please visit our website: **www.jayadevacardiology.com**
6. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason/s.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/JA/2962/2025-26 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

Bengaluru-560001

No. CJR/HCRB-1/2024 Dated: 22.09.2025

CIVIL JUDGES RECRUITMENT BRIEF NOTIFICATION

The Intimation No. HCRB/CJR-1/2024 dated **22.09.2025** notifying the list of candidates who are eligible for Preliminary Examination to the post of Civil Judges scheduled on **11.10.2025** is published in the official web-site of High Court of Karnataka i.e.,**https://judiciary.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
REGISTRAR GENERAL AND SECRETARY,
CIVIL JUDGES RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE.
DIPR/CP/2956/Zen/2025-26 HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU.

Directorate of Medical Education

BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road,
Bengaluru - 560002. Phone: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798
E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com

No: ME/Tender/08/2025-26 Date: 24-09-2025

NOTICE

Tender is invited through the GeM Portal **(Bid No: GEM/2025/B/6688902)** for the **Purchase of MRI 3.00 Tesla Equipment required to Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology.**

Interested tenderers shall view and submit tenders in the GeM Portal (Government e-Marketplace). All other details can be viewed in GeM Portal.

Sd/- Director
DIPR/CP/2959/Adverto/2025-26 Directorate of Medical Education, Bengaluru.

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD, DIVISION, BALLARI

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PHONE No. 08392 - 267762.
Web site: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Email: Email: eekwbbellary@gmail.com

BID NOTIFICATION

The lumpsum tender for the following works are invited for Firm / Contractor who fulfills the qualification criteria as detailed in the bidding document. The details can be obtained from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

Indent No: 1.KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT406 Amount put tender in Rs: 67,34,051-00. **Bid Security (In Rs.):** 1,35,000-00. **Period of completion:** 06 Months.
1.KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT407. Amount put tender in Rs: 56,50,019-00. **Bid Security (In Rs.):** 1,13,000-00. **Period of completion:** 06 Months

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KUWS & DB, Division, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/478/KSMCA/2025-26

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ

ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. ದೂ: 080-27833730
E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_hebbagodi@yahoo.com | Website: www.hebbagodicity.mrc.gov.in
ಸಂ:ಹೆ.ನ.ಸ/ತಾಂ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ನೋ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/14/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.09.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್ ಎಫ್ ಸಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಅನುದಾನದ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಮೃತ್ 2.0 ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 2 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.10.55 ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.89.46 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜಿನಂತೆ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲೂ-1 ಮತ್ತು ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲೂ-3 ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ:25.09.2025** ದಿಂದ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ನಂತೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ನಂತೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಜಾತ ಹರೀಶ್
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.

ದಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ದಾಪ್ರ/
ಜಿಎ/2971/2025-26

ಸಹಿ/-
ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಬಿ.ಎಲ್,
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)

BESCOM invites tenders through e-procurement platform from eligible Bidders for "System Improvements Works like Replacement of Age Old LT Conductor by Rabbit/AB Cable, Providing additional DTCs/Enhancement of DTCs & Replacement of Deteriorated poles in identified SC/ST colonies in Madhugiri, CSD Sira & RSD Sira Sub Divisions of **Madhuguri Division** (Lot-1), Pavagada, Koratagere & Kodagenalli Sub Divisions of **Madhuguri Division** (Lot-2), Kunigal, Huliyurdurga & Yediyur Sub Divisions of **Kunigal Division**, Tiptur, Turvekere & Chikkanayakana Halli Sub Divisions of **Tiptur Division**, Tumkur RSD- 2, Gubbi & Nittur Sub Divisions of **Tumkur Division** of Tumkur Circle, BESCOM for a period of Four months on fixed price rate contract Total Turnkey Percentage quoted Basis".

Sl. No.	Division	Enquiry Nos.
1	Kunigal Division	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT552
2	Tiptur Division	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT553
3	Tumkur Division	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT554
4	Madhuguri Division-Lot 1	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT555
5	Madhuguri Division-Lot 2	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT556

Bid Documents will be availabile: on 26.09.2025. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 13.10.2025, 11:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 14.10.2025, 11:30 Hrs.

The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/-
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP
Chief General Manager (Ele.), Operations, BESCOM

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED

Office of the Superintending Engineer,
Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE),
N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002.

No. B-SMILE/SE//TEND/08/2025-26 Date: 24.09.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT)
(Through KPP Portal Only)
(Short Term Tender Notification)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Government of Karnataka has constituted "Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited" (B-SMILE) for Implementation of Specific Infrastructure works in the city of Bengaluru. On behalf of the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), The Superintending Engineer, B-SMILE invites tenders from eligible Contractors Registered in CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Protection, Improvement of Rajakaluve / Buffer Zone including formation of service road by utilizing HAL property at Wind Tunnel Road. **Amount Put to Tender : Rs: 1998.05 Lakhs (Excluding GST) EMD : Rs. 20.00 Lakhs (Rupees 1.00 Lakh through KPP portal balance Rs.19.00 Lakhs in the any form as specified in any Tender document)**

Calendar of Events: (1) Date and time for Availability of Tender documents in KPP Portal : **29.09.2025 at 17.30 Hours onwards (2)** Last date for submission of pre bid queries : **10.10.2025 upto 13.00 hours. (3)** Date and time of Pre-bid meeting under the Chairmanship of Director (Technical), B-SMILE : **10.10.2025 at 16.00 hours,** Room No: 108, 1st Floor, Annexe-2 Building,. GBA, N R Square, Bengaluru - 560001. **(4)** Last Date and Time for receipt of tender Documents in KPP Portal : **28.10.2025 up to 16.00 hours (5)** Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bids : **29.10.2025 at 16.30 hours (6)** Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : Will be intimated to Technically Qualified Bidders.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer,
Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE)

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

COMMISSIONERATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED

No.05, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI-600 005.

Roc.No.3718 /A&A/RIGHTS/2025 **TENDER NOTICE** Dated : 24.09.2025

Bids are invited from potential bidders for supply of Assessment and Therapy equipment to 13 sub divisional OSC's across the districts of Perambalur, Thanjavur, Coimbatore, Erode and Salem through the e-procurement portal. The complete details are available on the department website **www.scd.tn.gov.in** as well as on the tender **website-tntenders.gov.in**

Bids shall be submitted only through the e-procurement portal at **http://tntenders.gov.in**

Project Director – TN RIGHTS /Commissioner, Commissionerate for welfare the Differently Abled, Chennai-600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

DIPR/ 5365 /TENDER/2025 **Project Director – RIGHTS / Commissioner for Welfare of the Differently Abled**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, ANANDAPUR BARRAGE PROJECT, SALAPADA.

E- mail id: cceabp@gmail.com

E-procurement Notice No. CCEABP-12 of 2025-26

E-Procurement Officer	Name of the Work	Bid id No.	Tender Cost in Lakhs (Appx)	Bid Security (Online)	Cost of Bid Document (Online)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of tender On-line for bidding From	Availability of tender On-line for bidding To	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-1)
Chief Construction Engineer, A.B.Project, Salapada	Repair and rehabilitation of approach road of Anandapur Barrage connecting to N.H.-20, Anandapur Barrage and S.H.-53.	ABP-ABD-01/12 of 2025-26	690.00	6,90,000/-	10,000/-	A & Spl. Class	Six Calendar month	04.10.25 11.30 AM	23.10.25 5.00 PM	24.10.25 11.30 AM

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in / www.dowrodisha.gov.in**
Addendum / corrigendum / cancellation if any required will be published in Govt. website only

A-668 Chief Construction Engineer, Anandapur Barrage Project, Salapada.
OIPR-32180/11/0013/2526

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No.: BDA/Commr/DS-1/TEN/728/2025-26 Date: 22.09.2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Bangalore Development Authority invites proposal to provide currently working Programmer/Assistant Programmer & Data Entry Operators from eligible service providers under Two Cover System.

Below are the Request for proposal Schedule

1	RFP Reference No.	BDA/2025-26/SE0069
2	Date of Commencement of Download of RFP Document from e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**	**25.09.2025**
3	Last Date and Time for uploading of Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal	**25.09.2025 5:00 PM**
4	Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting	**25.09.2025 at 11:00 AM Office of Deputy Secretary-1** Bangalore Development Authority T.Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru -560020
5	Last date and time of uploading of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal	**06.10.2025 5.00 PM**
6	Date & Time of Online opening of RFP Applications	**08.10.2025 11.00 AM**
7	Place of Opening of RFP	Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
8	Address for Communication	Bangalore Development Authority T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru -560020, Ph.No. 080-23442273/ 23442274/23445005, Web: kbda.karnataka.gov.in

For more details please refer e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or Contact at Office of Deputy Secretary, Bangalore Development Authority, T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru.

Sd/- Deputy Secretary-1, Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru.

MAHATRANSCO

Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/111 -2025-26

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs.in Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-54/ 0925_TKC1 RFx 7000037682 (3rd Call) for Work of conversion of existing AIS bays to GIS bays at 220 kV Kalameshwar S/s, 220 kV Kanhan S/s, 132 kV Mauda S/s and 132 kV Katol S/s under EHV PC O&M Zone, Nagpur – 3rd call.	10511.99 Lakhs (Incl. GST) / 8908.47 Lakhs (Excl.GST) / 25,000.00 + GST	15.10.2025 18:00 / 15.10.2025 18.05

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr-TKC-1) Tel. No.: 022-69852717
Email:1) C.E. (CPA) 2) E.E. (Group-TKC-1), CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@gmail.com, eepc@mahatransco.in, eetkc1cpa@mahatransco.in

For further details visit our website **http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in**

Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website **www.mahatransco.in**. So bidders are requested to check the website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design&QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for receipt of tender	Date & time for opening of tender
1	(D-C&BM)	BWSSB/EE(Buildings)/PB/1725/ 2025-26 Date: 18.09.2025	Rs.35,48,781/- / Rs.71,000/-	02.10.2025 upto 4.00 pm	03.10.2025 after 4.00 pm
2		BWSSB/EE(Buildings)/PB/1727/ 2025-26 Date: 18.09.2025 (Reserved for Category-I) (Call-2)	Rs.12,31,685/- / Rs.15,400/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(Buildings)/PB/1729/ 2025-26 Date: 18.09.2025	Rs.24,35,905/- / Rs.48,800/-	09.10.2025 upto 4.00 pm	10.10.2025 after 4.00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (D-C&BM)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/2968/AKAR/2025-26

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI

Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi – 585105. Tel : 08472-220817,
Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/AE-2/WS/SIRGUPPA-OHT/NARG/2025-26/738 Date : 23-09-2025

-: NOTICE INVITING TENDER :-

1) Detail of Work : Construction of 5.00 LL RCC Shaft type OHT on 15 Mtr Staging in ward No.18 Drivers colony and Providing & Laying of 200MM dia DI K9 class Pure Water Pipeline in Siruguppa city under Chief Minister's AMRUT Nagarothana (Municipality) Project Phase-4. **(Lumpsum-No Variation). (Work Indent No: KUWSDB/2025-26 /WS / WORK_INDENT408),** 2) Amount of Estimate: **Rs. 190.93 Lakhs (Excluding GST),** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount: Rs. 2,86,000/-, 5) Period of Completion: 12 Months, 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the e-procurement portal: **26-09-2025 after 13:00 hours**, 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **03-10-2025 at 11:30 hours**, 8) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **10-10-2025 upto 17:30 hours**, 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender: **13-10-2025 after 11:00 hours**, 10) Addl. information: Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Telephone : 08472-220817, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 11) Address of E-portal: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/547/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Sd/- Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi**

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY

(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court the Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE-IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.

The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. Clear Title: RTC stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 868/2022)						MINIMUM BID PRICE (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
	Village	Hobli	Taluk	District	Sy No	Area			
1	Doddakavalande	Doddakavalande	Nanjanagudu	Mysore	76/1B	0 Acre 38 Guntas	22,94,150/-	2,30,000/-	23,000/-
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/kvgLe5UEswX2scvk8 Latitude and Longitude : 12.0287260, 76.8098380								
2	Doddakavalande	Doddakavalande	Nanjanagudu	Mysore	76/2	2 Acre 10 Guntas	68,51,850/-	6,86,000/-	69,000/-
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/kvgLe5UEswX2scvk8 Latitude and Longitude : 12.0287260, 76.8098380								
3	Doddakavalande	Doddakavalande	Nanjanagudu	Mysore	77/1	1 Acre 27 Guntas	29,89,875/-	2,99,000/-	30,000/-
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/wfT4KC67zX8d85Di9 Latitude and Longitude : 12°01'45.9"N 76°48'32.9"E								
4	Madapura	Hullahalli	Nanjanagudu	Mysore	160/1	2 Acre 20 Guntas	53,12,500/-	5,32,000/-	54,000/-
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/xDhm2eR7AnBYCf288 Latitude and Longitude : 12°03'12.5"N 76°33'03.9"E								
5	Madapura	Hullahalli	Nanjanagudu	Mysore	160/2	2 Acre 18 Guntas	52,06,250/-	5,21,000/-	53,000/-
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/xDhm2eR7AnBYCf288 Latitude and Longitude : 12°03'12.5"N 76°33'03.9"E								
6	Madapura	Hullahalli	Nanjanagudu	Mysore	161/2	1 Acre 20 Guntas	31,87,500/-	3,19,000/-	32,000/-
	Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/wKw6HUT132Xpgxd86 Latitude and Longitude : 12°03'10.9"N 76°32'59.2"E								
7	Vijayapura	Thalakadu	T Narasipura	Mysore	131/2	0 Acre 39 Guntas	5,85,000/-	59,000/-	6,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
24th October 2025, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	27th October 2025, 11:00am to 05:00pm	29th October 2025, Before 5pm	30th October 2025, 11 am to 1 pm

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 6364403715

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 23-09-2025

DIPR/CP/2955/ZEN/2025-26

Sd/-
The Special Officer & Competent Authority,
(Under KPIDFE - IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru, Karnataka

‘Double engine sarkar’ has become a ‘double-edged sword’, says Siddaramaiah

The Chief Minister alleges the BJP had engaged in “vote chori,” stealing elections, buying MLAs, and suppressing the people’s voice across the country

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Expressing concern that Indian democracy is “under siege”, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday launched a scathing attack at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP by alleging that the so-called “double engine sarkar” has now become a “double-edged sword” cutting the soul of the republic.

Addressing the Congress Working Committing (CWC) meet in Patna, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the very spirit of the Constitution, which is liberty, equality, fraternity, and justice was being throttled by Mr. Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the BJP, and their ideological masters in the RSS.

“India today is living under the shadow of despotism. Institutions are being captured, freedom is being curtailed, and the people’s mandate is being stolen,” the Chief Minister alleged. He alleged that the BJP had engaged in “vote chori,” stealing elections, buying MLAs, and suppressing the people’s voice across the country. Hailing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for exposing “vote chori” in Mahadevapura and Aland of Karnataka, Mr. Siddaramaiah said his relentless fight against electoral manipulation has inspired every Indian who believes in fair democracy.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the Congress Working Committee meeting held in Bihar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

“While democracy is being subverted at home, the Modi-led government has failed the nation abroad. India’s foreign policy, once respected globally, is today reduced to silence and subservience. When Donald Trump shamelessly claimed he brokered peace in Kashmir, Mr. Modi did not even open his mouth. This is not diplomacy, this is the compromise of our sovereignty,” he alleged.

“Under the BJP’s rule, the common Indian is crushed. Prices of essential goods are soaring, unemployment has broken the backbone of our youth, inequality is rising like never before. The Modi government has made India a country where billionaires thrive while the poor struggle for two meals a day,” Mr. Siddaramaiah alleged.

Stating that Mr. Modi had “perfected the art of spinning failure into triumph”, the Karnataka Chief Minister said “every time his government stumbles, he dresses it up as a great achievement.”

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that it was Congress’ persistent demand that had compelled the Union government to agree to conduct a caste census which will ensure fair representation of every Indian. “And let us not forget, the guarantee schemes we pioneered in Karnataka are today being shamelessly copied even in BJP-ruled States,” he said.

Disgruntled MLA Raju Kage pipped in Congress list for political appointments

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The ruling Congress has finalised the list of names for appointment as chairpersons of various boards and corporations in the government, in which it has sought to replace MLA Raju Kage, who had publicly criticised the State government for lack of development funds.

List of 39 names

The list that comprises 39 names, including a few former MLAs and those who were denied tickets during the previous Assembly elections, has been finalised by the party high command in consultation with the State leaders, it is learnt. The move is being seen as an effort to take the party cadre into confidence ahead of the polls to local bodies.

In the list, the name of Arun Patil, has been proposed to be appointed as chairman for Northwest Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation which is presently being held by Mr. Raju Kage.

It may be noted that Mr. Kage had responded to the allegations of senior leader B. R. Patil who had accused of corruption in allotment of houses to beneficiaries under housing schemes, by publicly expressing displeasure over paucity of funds for development works.

The list has given prominence to those from Kalyana Karnataka region and coastal region.

Prominent names

Prominent among those whose names have been finalised for appointment are former MLA N. Sampangi and S. B. Nanjaiahna Math, former MLC Harish Kumar and Assembly ticket aspirant Anjanappa; Shivaleela, wife of former minister Vinay Kulkarni; Vadnal Jagadish, brother of former MLA Vadnal Rajanna; and party functionary Lavanya Ballal Jain.

Man arrested for stealing valuables from colleague’s house

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kadugodi police have arrested a 38-year-old civil engineer for allegedly stealing gold valuables from his colleague’s house to repay a loan the former had availed.

The accused, identified as Manjunath, a native of Jevargi and a resident of Ayyappa Nagar, Bengaluru, lived with his wife and children. The police reportedly zeroed in on the accused after verifying a CCTV footage and cross-checking it with the owner of the victim’s house.

According to the police, Manjunath took a personal loan of ₹30 lakh, which he was unable to repay. He reportedly frequented his colleague’s house, and came to know that his friend would be visiting a temple along with his family on the day of the Ganesha festival. On that day, Manjunath allegedly broke open the front door of his colleague’s house, before stealing the valuables. The police recovered gold items worth ₹5.8 lakh, which he had reportedly pawned.

HC rejects Prajwal Revanna’s plea for transfer of trial to another sessions court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday dismissed a petition filed by former MP Prajwal Revanna for transferring the trial of rape cases against him before another sessions court while claiming that the judge of the present sessions court is biased against him.

Justice M.I. Arun, while dismissing the petition, said that observations made by the sessions judge in the judgments against Prajwal cannot be construed as bias on the part of the judge.

Noticing that the sessions court, which intended to take the trial of a rape case against Prajwal on a day-to-day basis, criticised the adjournments sought on behalf of Prajwal, the High Court said that admittedly, the sessions judge had frowned upon the attempt made to drag the case by resorting to delay tactics. However, Prajwal’s advocate denied the allegation that there was attempt to delay the trial.

The High Court said that if the trial of a criminal case can be transferred on the allegation of bias, then petitions could be filed in all criminal cases for transfer of cases to another court.

PGCET: Option entry begins

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The first round of the seat allotment process for MBA, MCA, MTech, M.E., and MArch courses started on Wednesday. Candidates can enter their options/preferences until September 28, said Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) Executive Director H. Prasanna.

The mock seat allotment results will be announced on September 29. Candidates will be allowed to rearrange their preferences until October 3. The provisional results will be published on October 3.

Man arrested for harassing traffic police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Rajajinagar police on Monday arrested a 40-year-old garment factory worker for allegedly misbehaving with a woman Police Sub Inspector and harassing the police personnel on duty on social media.

Based on the complaint, the police tracked down Selvakumar. He was arrested and charged under Sections 79 and 132 of BNS.

PSI Parvathi Bai-led traffic police team was on duty to check visible violations and drunk driving cases on Dr. Rajkumar Road on Saturday. Around 10 p.m., the police stopped Selvakumar, who was riding a bike without a helmet and was talking on the phone while driving. Heated arguments ensued when the police asked him for documents for verification.

He then started video recording and even refused to pay the fine.

“The accused created a ruckus and started video recording the police officials, shouting and accusing them of corrupt practices,” an official said. The police tried to reason with him, but he was furious and said that he was a member of a political party and that he would escalate the issue. The accused later uploaded the video on social media.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to purchase Property Bearing **Site No.109**, BBMP E-Aasthi No. 1034/109/124/1, PID No.2424544614, Old Katha No. 124/1, earlier Katha No.123/4, formed in Sy.No. 102/1, measuring East to West **40 feet** and North to South Eastern side **35 feet** and Western side **34 feet,** totally measuring **1380 Sq.feet,** along with Residential Building, situated at **Horamavu Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore** and bounded on:
East by : Site No.108;
West by : Site No.110;
North by : Private Property;
South by : 30 feet wide Road.
From its Owner **Mr.Sarabpreet Singh Manchanda Son of Mr.Hardip Singh Manchanda.**
Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within **7 days** from the date of this publication, to the undersigned.

Prashanth Vijayalakshmi & Associates, Advocates,
No.162, 1st Floor, Above Venkateshwara Mobile Store, Next Kanthi Sweets, 2nd Main Kasturinagar, Bangalore-560043.
Email : prashanthviji.adv@gmail.com

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: Y-E-29-2025-26-47
Dated: 17.09.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
OHE modification for provision of shunting neck of 750m towards Kadur (DRU) end by extending the existing siding on Road-4 at Birur Yard.	Rs. 1,35,88,768.75

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 09.10.2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction/Mysuru
PUB/501/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
Syndicate
Infantry Road Branch,#91, I Floor, Infantry Road, Bengaluru-560001, Phone No. 9483521927.
Email: cb1927@canarabank.com
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank,**Infantry Road Branch, Bengaluru,** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **07.07.2025** calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors,**1) M/s REWARDS RESOURCING PVT LTD(Pan: AALCA2141A)** 1ST FLOOR, NO 18, SNS PLAZA ROAD KUMARA KRUPA ROAD,Bangalore North 560001. **2)** NO 11,3 RD FLOOR, RAILWAY PARALLEL ROAD, NEHRUNAGAR, BENGALURU-560020. **3) Ms. SHARVANI SACHIDANAND (Pan: AEEPA2638A) DIRECTOR and GUARANTOR of M/s REWARDS RESOURCING PVT LTD. D/O Budagere Sachidanand,** NO 201 HANATHE 4TH C MAIN , 3RD BLOCK 3RD STAGE,BASAVESHWARA NAGAR, Bangalore North 560079**. 4) Mrs PINKY DHANPAL SAKARIA (PAN: AGRP7481M) DIRECTOR AND GUARANTOR OF M/s REWARDS RESOURCING PVT LTD. W/O Dhanpal Sakaria,** NO 33/1 SAKARIA NIVAS NEHARUNAGAR, SESHADRIPURAM 1ST CROSS , Bangalore North 560020. **5) Smt. SHANTI DEVI (PAN: (ADIPD2344R) GUARANTOR and MORTGAGOR of M/S REWARDS RESOURCING PVT LTD. W/O Tejraj Bantiya,** NO 50/30 YAMUNA BAI ROAD ,OPP E TV OFFICE,MADHAVANAGAR, Bangalore North 560001
6)Sri. DHANPAL SAKARIA (PAN: AHWPS6909H) GUARANTOR and MORTGAGOR of M/S REWARDS RESOURCING PVT LTD. S/O Inderkumar Devichandji Sakaria, No 33/1, 1ST CROSS ,NEHRUNAGAR, BANGLORE 560020. **7)Sri.NIRMAL BANTIYA (PAN: ADTPB9578J) GUARANTOR of M/S REWARDS RESOURCING PVT LTD S/O Tejraj Bantiya,** NO 50(30) YAMUNA BAI ROAD, OPP E TV OFFICE, MADHAVANAGAR , Bangalore North 560001.
7) MR. SURESH KUMAR
REPRESENTED BY POA HOLDER MRS. PINKY DHANPAL SAKARIA PARTNER OF M/S DHRUVI BUILDERS AND CONSTRUCTIONS REGISTERED OFFICE AT NO.33/1, 1ST CROSS ROAD, NEHRU NAGAR, BANGALORE 560020.
8)M/s Dhruvi Builders and Constructions
(Represented by Mrs. Pinky Dhanpal Sakaria and Mr. Suresh Kumar, Represented by POA holder Mrs. Pinky Dhanpal Sakaria)
MORTGAGOR of M/S REWARDS RESOURCING PVT LTD
Registered Office at No.33/1, 1st Cross Road, Nehru Nagar, Bangalore 560020 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs. 5,91,24,468.89 (Rupees Five Crores Ninety-One Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Four Hundred And Sixty Eight And Eighty nine Paise only)** and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice
The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules 2002 on this **22th day of September 2025.**
The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank, INFANTRY ROAD Branch for an amount of **Rs.6,07,36,849.89 (Rupees Six crore seven lakhs thirty six thousand eight hundred forty nine and Paisa Eighty nine only)** and interest thereon.
The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
Description of the Immovable Property.
1. MODTD of 3Bed room Villa at Varthur Village Bengaluru bearing No 02, “COURTYARD CONVERTED” SY No. 163/3 and 163/2 situated at Varthur Village, Varthur hobli, Bengaluru East taluk with super built up area of flat 2581.66 sqft and undivided share of land 2388.035 sqft and Garden area - 819.16 sqft. Bounded by : **East by :** Garden , **West by:** Road ,**North by:** Row house/Villament no 1 and **South by:** Row house/Villament no 3.
Name of Title holder : Smt.Shanthi Devi
2. All that piece and parcel of apartment bearing Flat No.201 in second floor with 2 car parking at Kalpavruksh Homes No.8 Municipal No 5, PID No.77-60-5, 1st Main Road, Ward No.77, Chakravarthi Iyengar Extension, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru 560020 measuring North to South 40Feet, East to West 60Feet, Super Built up area 2400Sq Ft, Undivided Share of land 600 Sq ft. Bounded By **East by:** Dr. Prasanna Kumar House, **West by:** 1ST main road Chakravarthi Iyengar extension/Layout **North By:** M R Sarojini Devi House And **South By:** Krishna Iyyengar House.
Name of Title holder : Mr Dhanpal Sakaria.
Date : 24.09.2025 **Authorised Officer**
Place :Bangalore **Canara Bank**

DOCUMENT LOST
I Nandu J V, Son of Shri Vinod J M aged about 19 years, Residing at Door No.E-495 Jigani, Bangalore-560105, do hereby notify General Public that I have lost my educational testimonials like 12th marks card and pass Certificate any person finds these may contact the undersigned on;
Mobile: 9740630129

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public at large are hereby notified that our Client has negotiated for purchase of the Schedule Property described hereunder from its owners **Krishnappa, Devaraj, Nagaveni, Prathap, Sujatha, Vishwanath, A G Shivashankarappa, Usha, Asha, Roopa, Swetha, Veena, Jyothi, Pusphavathamma, Sudha, Padmanabha** are the legal heirs of Late M Jagannath, M Shivaprasad Legatee of **Smt. Venkatamma and our Client** intends to conclude the said transaction. As such any person(s) having any claim whatsoever over the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to file their objections, claims, if any, alongwith supporting documents to the below mentioned address within **21 (twenty one) days** from the date of this notice. If no objections/claims are received within the said period, our Client shall proceed as a bonafide purchaser by getting Sale deed registered with respective Schedule Property.
SCHEDULE
All that piece & parcel of dry land bearing **Sy No. 31** situated at **Anniganahalli Village, Kasab Hobli, Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar District,** measuring **16 Acre 33 Guntas** bounded on the :
East : Bangarpet Kolar Main Road, West by : H M Ramasastry land , North by : M S Kumar Land (Sy. No. 32), South By : Hanchala Vilalge Road.
(G.S.Prasanna Kumar)
LINC AND CO.,
Advocates
#9, 2nd main, Srikantan Layout, Crescent Road, High Grounds
Bengaluru-560001 Ph.9844278671
Mail Id : lincandco@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our Client **Mrs. Sumithra Devi wife of Sri. M Prasan Chand,** residing at Flat No:1301, B Block, 13th Floor, Mantri Green Apartments, Sampige road, Malleswaram, Bangalore- 560003, is desirous of purchasing a commercial space shown in the Schedule from its Owners **Mr. N.S. Sachin son of Sri. Shantharam,** residing at No: 82, 6th Cross, Sampige Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003.
Any Person or persons having/asserting any right title or interest, claim or intending to oppose the purchase in any manner may file their written objections within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of publication of the notice hereof, with documentary proof to the undersigned at his office whereafter no such claims shall be entertained and our client will proceed to complete the Sale transaction of the Schedule Apartment.
SCHEDULE
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Vacant Commercial Property bearing Municipal No: 82/1, PID No: 7-01-82, E-PID No: 1884247988, Sampige Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003, BBMP Ward No: 65 of Kadumalleswara, measuring East to West **31 feet** and North to South **10 feet** in all measuring **310 square feet,** situated at **Sampige Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore- 560003,** the property is bounded on:-
East by : Sampige Road, West by : Property No:57, North by : Property No:84, South by : Property No:82.
Ranjith Gotur, Advocate,
No. 461, B/w 6th & 7th Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore 560 003. +91 8197215170
ranjith.gotur@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby informed that our client **Mr.B.Gopala Krishna S/o Mr.M.Byanna** intending to mortgage Schedule property and the Property was purchased through (1).Sale Deed dated 18.03.2005 Regd as Doc No.32137/2004-05 at SRO Bangalore South & (2) Sale Deed dated 07.03.2001 Regd as Doc No.4456/2000-01 at SRO Jayanagara, B'lore and the above said original documents are laminated for the purpose of safeguarding.
Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the Said Property by way of inheritance, sale, agreement, mortgage, lease, lien, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance, they shall return the same or contact the undersigned in writing within **07 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of Property bearing **No.288/6,** at **Bannerghatta Main Road, Nayanappasettypalya, Begur Hobli, BSTQ,** measuring: ExW: 33 ft & NxS:30 ft together with a building and bounded on:
East by : Property of Sri. B. Gopala Krishna, **West by :** Bannerghatta Main Road, **North by :** Property of Narayana Reddy, **South by :** Common passage and property of Chikkanna, Munireddy and B.Gopala Krishna
Item No.2 : All that piece and parcel of Property bearing **No.288/6,** at **Bannerghatta Main Road, Nayanappasettypalya, Begur Hobli, BSTQ,** measuring: ExW: 35 ft & NxS:30 ft together with a building and bounded on:
East by : Property of Sri. Munireddy, **West by :** Remaining portion of Gopala Reddy, **North by :** Property of Narayana Reddy, **South by :** Common passage 11x68 and property of Chikkanna, Munireddy.
Shivakumar, Advocate
M/s. Rashi Legal
No.B2-1250/51, Manu Teja Towers, A Dasarahalli Magadi Main Road, Bangalore (North) -560079
M-9538178060
Place: Bengaluru Dated:25th September 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the General Public that my client **Ms. FIRDOSE ZEHRA Daughter of M. Rahmath Ali Baig, and her children Mr.Mohammed Zoheir Ali, Ms.Fathima Shams Ali, Mr.Mohammed Rehan Ali**, residents of Thanisandra, Bangalore-77 have no relationship what so ever from 20th day of February 2011, when Declaration of Divorce(Khula) was taken place at Anjuman E Imamia, Masjid e Askari campus, No.15, Hosur Road, Richmond Town, Bangalore-25, between **Ms. Firdose Zehra and Mr.Mazhar Ali Baig,** nor have any financial transactions or any type of monetary or any type of exchange or dealing in any form/s, between my clients and Mr. Mazhar Ali Baig from 20.2.2011. It has come to knowledge of my clients that the said Mr. Mazhar Ali Baig is falsely claiming and making unwanted claims in respect of the assets of my clients which are totally false and untrue. Recently the said Mr.Mazhar Ali Baig called my client's children, they have clearly informed him not have any form of contact, since he has left the family long back they are not interested to have any form of contact with him.
Mr. Mazhar Ali Baig or any of his associates have nothing to do with the assets, both movable and immovable of my clients, my clients have disowned Mr. Mazhar Ali Baig from 20.2.2011 itself and said Mr.Mazhar Ali Baig has nothing to do in day to day life of my clients and his where about are not known to my clients.
If anyone person/s are dealing any form with Mr. Mazhar Ali Baig, my clients have nothing to do in such transactions whatsoever. Mr. Mazhar Ali Baig has no business or any right, title or interest in the properties or business of my clients, despite this specific **PUBLIC NOTICE** any person/s are dealing with said Mr.Mazhar Ali Baig or any person claiming under him, my clients having nothing to do with the same, any person/s dealing or transacting with said Mr. Mazhar Ali Baig, shall do on their own risk.
LAYAK ALI A., B. Com., LL.B.,
Advocates & Consultants
No.31, 6 Main Road, Pillappa Block, Ganganagar, RT Nagar PO, Bangalore-32 Mob. No.9844174668

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
Syndicate
Infantry Road Branch,#91, I Floor, Infantry Road, Bengaluru-560001, Phone No. 9483521927.
Email: cb1927@canarabank.com
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank,**Infantry Road Branch, Bengaluru,** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **07.07.2025** calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors,**1) M/s REWARDS RESOURCING PVT LTD(Pan: AALCA2141A)** 1ST FLOOR, NO 18, SNS PLAZA ROAD KUMARA KRUPA ROAD,Bangalore North 560001. **2)** NO 11,3 RD FLOOR, RAILWAY PARALLEL ROAD, NEHRUNAGAR, BENGALURU-560020. **3) Ms. SHARVANI SACHIDANAND (Pan: AEEPA2638A) DIRECTOR and GUARANTOR of M/s REWARDS RESOURCING PVT LTD. D/O Budagere Sachidanand,** NO 201 HANATHE 4TH C MAIN , 3RD BLOCK 3RD STAGE,BASAVESHWARA NAGAR, Bangalore North 560079**. 4) Mrs PINKY DHANPAL SAKARIA (PAN: AGRP7481M) DIRECTOR AND GUARANTOR OF M/s REWARDS RESOURCING PVT LTD. W/O Dhanpal Sakaria,** NO 33/1 SAKARIA NIVAS NEHARUNAGAR, SESHADRIPURAM 1ST CROSS , Bangalore North 560020. **5) Smt. SHANTI DEVI (PAN: (ADIPD2344R) GUARANTOR and MORTGAGOR of M/S REWARDS RESOURCING PVT LTD. W/O Tejraj Bantiya,** NO 50/30 YAMUNA BAI ROAD ,OPP E TV OFFICE,MADHAVANAGAR, Bangalore North 560001.
6)Sri. DHANPAL SAKARIA (PAN: AHWPS6909H) GUARANTOR and MORTGAGOR of M/S REWARDS RESOURCING PVT LTD. S/O Inderkumar Devichandji Sakaria, No 33/1, 1ST CROSS ,NEHRUNAGAR, BANGLORE 560020. **7)Sri.NIRMAL BANTIYA (PAN: ADTPB9578J) GUARANTOR of M/S REWARDS RESOURCING PVT LTD S/O Tejraj Bantiya,** NO 50(30) YAMUNA BAI ROAD, OPP E TV OFFICE, MADHAVANAGAR , Bangalore North 560001.
7) MR. SURESH KUMAR
REPRESENTED BY POA HOLDER MRS. PINKY DHANPAL SAKARIA PARTNER OF M/S DHRUVI BUILDERS AND CONSTRUCTIONS REGISTERED OFFICE AT NO.33/1, 1ST CROSS ROAD, NEHRU NAGAR, BANGALORE 560020.
8)M/s Dhruvi Builders and Constructions
(Represented by Mrs. Pinky Dhanpal Sakaria and Mr. Suresh Kumar, Represented by POA holder Mrs. Pinky Dhanpal Sakaria)
MORTGAGOR of M/S REWARDS RESOURCING PVT LTD
Registered Office at No.33/1, 1st Cross Road, Nehru Nagar, Bangalore 560020 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs. 5,91,24,468.89 (Rupees Five Crores Ninety-One Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Four Hundred And Sixty Eight And Eighty nine Paise only)** and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules 2002 on this **20th day of September 2025.**
The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank, INFANTRY ROAD Branch for an amount of **Rs.6,07,36,849.89 (Rupees Six crore seven lakhs thirty six thousand eight hundred forty nine and Paisa Eighty nine only)** and interest thereon.
The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
Description of the Immovable Property.
All that piece and parcel of Residential Site No.93, in the layout “Nitesh Rio” formed as per the plan approved by Bangalore Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority out of the land in S Y No.20/2 of Uttarahalli, Manavarthekaval Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk duly converted for residential purposes as per the official Memorandum No. B.Dis.ALN.SR (S) 239/03-04 dt 20.10.2003, issued by the Deputy Commisioner, Bengaluru District, measuring 3560Sq Ft and bounded by : **East By :** Site No.69 & 70 , **West By :** Road , **North By** :Park **South By :** Site No.92.
Name of Title holder : M/S Dhruvi Builders and Constructions
Represented by partners Mrs. Pinky Dhanpal Sakaria and Sri Suresh kumar.
Date : 24.09.2025 **Authorised Officer**
Place :Bangalore **Canara Bank**

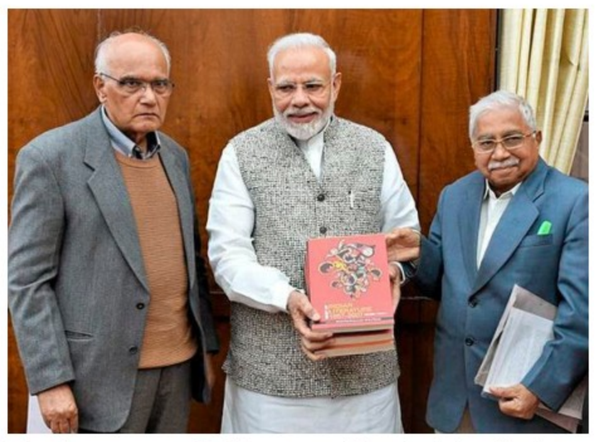
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are informed that our client **Mrs. Sushmita Ojha, wife of Mr.Pramod Ojha** being the sole and absolute owner of all that piece and parcel of the landed property bearing **No.260/2** measuring East: 88 Feet, 7.5 inches, West: 88 Feet 7.5 inches, North: 46 Feet 2 inches, South: 48 Feet 2 inches admeasuring 4091 Square Feet together with the two storied residential apartment building (G+1) constructed thereon, having a super built-up area of 3000 Square Feet, carved out of Sy.No.42 in the layout known as **‘PALM MEADOWS’,** situated at **Whitefield Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore** affirms that the Sale Deed dated 19.11.2004 registered as Document No.KRI-1-22287/2004-05 stored in CD No.KRID86 of Book-I, before the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Krishnarajapura, Bangalore has been lost/misplaced and have not been mortgaged/pledged as collateral security and is not in a position to trace the said original document. **Mrs.Sushmita Ojha** had also lodged complaint on 17.09.2025 bearing **E-Lost Report No.1819647/2025** before the Bangalore City police about the aforesaid loss.
Any person/s in possession of the aforesaid documents may return the same to us or anyone having any sort of claim over the said Property may lodge their objections in writing within **07 days** from this day to the undersigned.
K. V. Narendra & Associates,
Advocates and Legal Consultants,
No.557, 2nd Floor, 9th A Main, Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560038.
Ph: 9945109229/9591067392.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General public is hereby informed that our client **Mr. Santhosh Kumar K** is intending to purchase below mentioned immovable property described in the schedule hereunder from its owner Smt. Sushelamma W/o Late M. Raju Aadhar No.762867948217 aged about 63 years, Residing at; # 391, 3RD Cross, Junjappa Layout, Vivekananda Nagar, Behind Kote, Hosakote Town, Bangalore Rural District-562114.
Whereas, the owner claims that she is the sole and absolute owner thereof, it is hereby informed to the general public, that any person/s agent/s Bank/s, Financial Institution/s, etc., sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, gift, trust, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, licence, easement or otherwise of whatsoever nature howsoever, etc., in respect of the schedule property are hereby informed to make the same Known to the undersigned in writing supported by documents as proof and evidence within a period of **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the claim/s or objections shall be considered will be advised to go ahead and complete the sale formalities.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of the immovable property, being agriculture land, comprised in Sy. No. 391/12 (Old Sy. No. 391/1), measuring 00-17 guntas, both properties are situated at Hosakote Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, bounded on the: **East by:** Sushelamma property, **West by:** Santhosh Kumar K property, **North by:** Road and remaining portion of Sushelamma, **South by:** Canal
N.C. SANTHOSH KUMAR, Advocate
No. 119,, Basavashree Circle, 1st main road, Gangammagudi road, M.V.Extension, Hosakote, Bangalore-562114.
Mob. 8310122174 / 9972734747
Date:24-09-2025

भा.कृ.अनु.प- केन्द्रीय मीठाजल जीवपालन अनुसंधान संस्थान
I.C.A.R-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture
कौशल्यागंग, भुवनेश्वर-751002, ओड़ीशा
Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar-751002, Odisha
Advertisement No. 18/2025-26 Date of Insertion-24.09.2025
वॉक–इन–इंटरव्यू
भा.कृ.अनु.प–केन्द्रीय मीठाजल जीवपालन अनुसंधान संस्थान, सीफा कौशल्यागंग, भुवनेश्वर, ओडिशा में अनुबंधन के आधार पर काम करने के लिए दिनांक **07.10.2025** को **03 (तीन) जूनियर रिसर्च फेलों (JRF) एवं दिनांक 08.10.2025 को 02 (दो) फील्डवर्कर (तालाब/हैचरी सहायक)** पद की भर्ती हेतु **पू.10.00** बजे वॉक–इन–इंटरव्यू आयोजित किया जायेगा। अधिक जानकारी के लिए कृपया संस्थान कि वेबसाइट **http://www.cifa.nic.in** पर जाएं।
WALK-IN INTERVIEW
A Walk-in-Interview will be held at **ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar** at **10.00 A.M.** for engagement of **03 (Three) nos. of Junior Research Fellow(JRF) on 07.10.2025 and 02 (Two) nos. of Field worker (Pond/hatchery Attendant) on 08.10.2025 respectively,** purely on a contractual basis to work under DBT funded Project on “Selective breeding for growth and evaluation of reproductive trait (breeding window) for line development in catla (*Labeo catla, Ham*)”. For further details please visit to ICAR-CIFA website: **http://www.cifa.nic.in.**
मुख्य जाँचकर्ता / Principal Investigator

Two of a kind: U.R. Ananthamurthy and S.L. Bhyrappa at the Dharwad Sahitya Sambhrama.

Literary honour: S.L. Bhyrappa being presented with the Saraswati Samman in 2010.



Three's a company: S.L. Bhyrappa and Chandrashekara Kambara with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

Feted by varsity: S.L. Bhyrappa received a honorary doctorate from Mangalore University in 2016. FILE PHOTO

The many facets of the legacy of Bhyrappa's literary works

His novels were translated into multiple languages and were bestsellers, and some of them also ran into controversies

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

National honour: S.L. Bhyrappa being conferred with the Padma Shri award at his residence in Mysuru on June 17, 2016.

What distinguishes S.L. Bhyrappa from his contemporaries was his fidelity to the form of the novel through his life of over six decades as a writer. He was also known for undertaking intense research ahead of writing his novels.

However, many of his works, while being bestsellers, also became controversial for what his critics called "conservative outlook" and the "Hindutva stances" they espoused, triggering intense debate and opposition from progressive sections of society.

Widely read

From his first novel *Bheemakaya* in 1958 to his 25th and last novel *Uttarakanda* in 2017, after which he announced his retirement, Bhyrappa remained one of the most popular novelists of Kannada. Each of his novels saw multiple editions and the first novel he wrote when he was 27 is still being reprinted.

All his novels came to be translated into multiple Indian languages, apart from English. His novels *Vamsavriksha*, *Gruhabhanga*, and *Parva*, a retelling of the Mahabharata, are considered to be classics of Kannada literature.

He won the Saraswati Samman award for his novel *Mandra* in 2010. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2023.

Retelling epics

Bhyrappa retold the two epics, the Mahabharata (*Parva*) and the Ramayana (*Uttarakanda*), reconstructing them in the social realism mode using the stream of consciousness narrative. In an essay he wrote about researching for *Parva*, Bhyrappa writes about his travels in North India, visiting the places where the events of the Mahabharata are supposed to have taken place, including the Kurukshetra war.

His last novel *Uttarakanda*, told from the perspective of Sita, was well received even by the progressives and was a sort of a departure from his earlier novels, which faced the criticism that he rarely wrote well-etched women characters. His earlier novel *Kavalu* (2010) had especially received criticism for being what many termed "anti-feminist."

Bhyrappa often experimented with subjects not much explored in Kannada. For instance, while *Yaana* was a science fiction novel, set in space, *Anchu* is a psychological novel, and *Mandra* was on the theme of music.

Conservative outlook

While Bhyrappa remained popular, many critics from the progressive school argued that his novels had a conservative outlook, which was often in collision with various literature movements – Navya, Bandaya and Dalit – which dominated the second half of the 20th century.

His fictional works ran parallel to these movements.

This saw intense pushback from other writers, who argued that even Bhyrappa's novels espoused an agenda – of the Hindutva right – and took conservative stances.

Some of his novels triggered controversies. For example, *Avarana* faced criticism for its portrayal of Muslim rulers and conversion.

The novel even had footnotes referring to sources based on which he claimed the novel was written. But it was criticised for "selective communal reading" of history.

In his later years, Bhyrappa was an avowed supporter of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In his condolence message, Mr. Modi described Bhyrappa as a writer "who stirred our conscience and touched the soul of India."

Writers recall Bhyrappa's research, respect for criticism

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Among his many contributions to Kannada literature, S.L. Bhyrappa's greatest achievements was attracting new readers, especially the youth, said writers who spoke to *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

Bhyrappa was often at the centre of controversy for his strong ideological stance, but when viewed through a non-ideological lens, he was a man who accepted both criticism and praise with humility, said many.

Critic T.P. Ashoka recalled an instance in the 1990s when he presented a critical paper on the novel *Vamsha Vriksha* in the presence of Bhyrappa in Chitradurga.

"He took the criticism positively and also responded to the questions I posed in my paper. He always welcomed criticism when it came from a place of sincerity and respect," he said.

K. Marulasiddappa, critic and playwright, shared a similar sentiment as he recalled their trip to Delhi a few years ago for work related to the Kannada Abhivriddhi Pradhikara.

"We both had very different ideologies and principles, but he always saw a person first as a fellow human being," he said.

A curious personality

Mr. Ashoka said that when he visited Chitradurga fort with Bhyrappa, the latter was extremely observant and keen on hearing stories from locals.

"I asked him whether he was planning to write about Chitradurga. He replied that he couldn't, unless the place touched his soul deeply and a story revealed itself. He explained that he would write a book, put it away for six months, revisit it, share it with his friends, and make changes before publishing," he recalled.

Scholar Hampa Nagarajaiah supported Mr. Ashoka's observations, saying Bhyrappa's novels were always backed by thorough research.

"In fact, his works were always the result of deep research, combined with a serious tone and disciplined flow," Mr. Nagarajaiah said.

Writer and publisher Vasudhendra added that Bhyrappa had mastered the art of giving the highest importance even to minor characters in his novels, citing examples such as Venkatesha in *Daatu* and Kallesha in *Gruhabanga*. "Every character contributed something meaningful to the story, which is very difficult to achieve in novel writing," Mr. Vasudhendra said.

Each of S.L. Bhyrappa's novels saw multiple editions.

He further noted that Bhyrappa's writing was always ahead of its time, citing *Matadana* as an example. "I often wonder how someone could write with such precision on a subject," he said.

Mr. Marulasiddappa also said that Bhyrappa revolutionised the novel form, with masterpieces such as *Gruhabanga* and *Parva*.

"He played a crucial role in elevating Kannada and making novel writing a literary movement. We can say he popularised the novel form itself," he said, adding that Bhyrappa was instrumental in expanding the reader base for Kannada literature.

"His works were always widely discussed, regardless of their subject, and this drew more readers into Kannada."

Life story

- Born in 1931 in Santeshivara, a village near Channarayapatna in Hassan district
- He completed his schooling in Channarayapatna and Mysuru, and went on to earn a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Philosophy from Mysore University
- Bhyrappa pursued his Doctor of Philosophy on Satya mattu Soundarya at Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
- He worked as a professor of logic and psychology at Kadasiddeshwar College, Hubballi
- He also served at Sardar Patel University and later at the National Council of Educational Research and Training in Delhi
- He retired in 1991 from the Regional College of Education in Mysuru

Notable works

Book	Year
Bheemakaya	1958
Doora Saridaru	1962
Matadana	1965
Vamsha Vriksha	1965
Naayi Neralu	1968
Tabbaliyu Neenade Magane	1968
Gruhabhanga	1970
Daatu	1973
Parva	1979
Nele	1983
Sakshi	1986
Anchu	1990
Tantu	1993
Saartha	1998
Mandra	2001
Kavalu	2010
Yaana	2014
Uttarakaanda	2017
Bhitti (autobiography)	1996

Awards

Award	Year
Padma Bhushan	2023
Padma Shri	2016
Sahitya Akademi (for Daatu)	1975
Saraswati Samman (for Mandra)	2010

In the passing of Shri S.L. Bhyrappa Ji, we have lost a towering stalwart who stirred our conscience and delved deep into the soul of India. A fearless and timeless thinker, he profoundly enriched Kannada literature with his thought-provoking works.

NARENDRA MODI,
Prime Minister

A file photo of S.L. Bhyrappa when he worked as a lecturer at Sri Kadasiddeshwar Arts College in Hubballi.

'He wrote like a trained lawyer'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

International Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq recalled how S.L. Bhyrappa stayed at her Hassan residence for a long time to research the customs and lifestyle of a Muslim household, before writing his controversial novel *Avarana*.

"In my younger days, I was a loyal reader of his works. But after he started writing his prejudices in his fiction, I stopped being as loyal as I used to be. I felt his writings were like a trained lawyer making a good argument of his case, using research to buttress his claims. I often asked myself as to who stole his creativity," she wrote on Facebook on Wednesday.

Ideological differences aside, Ms. Mushtaq said that she remembered her meetings with him and their discussions with warmth.

Political leaders pay rich tributes to writer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Several political leaders, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, condoled the death of veteran Kannada novelist S.L. Bhyrappa.

Mr. Siddaramaiah observed that the Kannada literary world had become poorer with the death of Bhyrappa who had earned a large number of readers with his unique writing style. Mr. Gowda too said that Bhyrappa had won the hearts of lakhs by giving excellent novels to the Kannada literary world.

Reinterpreting epics

Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy observed that Bhyrappa had changed the way one would see and read the Mahabharata and the Ramayana through *Parva* and *Uttarakanda* novels that reinterpreted these epics.

"I have read his novels and I am amazed by his unique narrative style and creation of characters. His death is a personal loss to me and I feel proud that he was born in Hassan district," said Mr. Kumaraswamy, who is also a native of Hassan district.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar described Bhyrappa as the link between Kannada and the country's literary world. He noted that Bhyrappa's writing as well as his views had always triggered debates in the literary world.

Mr. Shivakumar, who represents Kanakapura Assembly constituency, recalled that Bhyrappa had been chosen as president of Kannada Sahitya Sammelana held in Kanakapura in 1999.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok said the Kannada literary world had lost a precious gem as Bhyrappa had increased the richness of the Kannada literary heritage through his novels.

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai recalled that Bhyrappa had a great love and concern for his native village Santheshivara of Hassan district.

Santheshivara residents called him 'Bhagirathi Swaroopi'

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

Novelist S.L. Bhyrappa, who passed away on Wednesday, had a strong bond with his native place Santheshivara, a village in Hassan district. The writer played a prominent role in the development of the village in the recent years. The days he spent in Santheshivara, about 26 km from Channarayapatna taluk centre, as a child, deeply influenced his depiction of villages in many of his novels.

Mixed memories

Born to Lingannayya and Gowramma of Santheshivara, Bhyrappa spent his early life in the village. He had both happy and unhappy memories associated with this place. Following a bubonic plague, he lost his elder sister and a brother within a couple of hours. Later, his mother also died of the same. He recalled those days in his interviews and his autobiography *Bhitti*. He studied at Bagur, Nuggehalli, and Channarayapatna, before moving to Mysuru for higher studies.

After his studies, he worked in Gujarat and Delhi, before returning to Mysuru, where he spent the rest of his days.

Occasionally he visited the village and interacted with the residents. He set up the Gowramma Memorial Trust, named after his mother and converted the ancestral home into a library. The library has a hall where literary meetings could be held. In 2019, many of his readers assembled in the village for a literary meet.

S.L. Bhyrappa, during his last visit to Santheshivara in Channarayapatna taluk on March 9, 2025, went for a ride on a coracle in the tank in the village. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The writer, during his visit to the village, understood the problems faced by farmers owing to the depletion of the groundwater table. He felt if the tank in the village was connected to the Hemavati canal it could get sufficient water and groundwater would improve. He appealed to the government to provide funds for the same.

Then Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, in the 2020 Budget, announced ₹5 crore for the development of the village. However, the government could provide only ₹1 crore, and utilising the funds, the foundation stone was laid for the construction of an art centre named after Bhyrappa. However, the construction has not been completed yet.

Again, Bhyrappa continued his efforts to ensure the village got water facility. His efforts yielded results earlier this year, when the tanks at Santheshivara and neighbouring Agrahara Belaguli were connected to the Hemavati canal at Karehalli, through a 11-km pipeline. The government spent about ₹20 crore for the project.

Earlier this year, on March 9, residents of the village invited Bhyrappa, his wife Saraswathi, former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, and others and felicitated them for their efforts in fulfilling the long-pending demand. They held a procession that involved tableaux depicting Bhyrappa's 27 novels. The villagers honoured him as 'Bhagirathi Swaroopi' title on the occasion.

A discrepancy which remained uncorrected

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Writer S.L. Bhyrappa wrote that his actual date of birth was July 26, 1934. The discrepancy, he explained, was a pragmatic decision by his family to advance his age on paper so that he could secure a job early in life.

Later, when he tried to correct the error while preparing for his SSLC exams, he was told it required a certified birth certificate from the local amaldar along with a fee of ₹5. With no money to spare, he quietly let the matter rest.

S.L. Bhyrappa made Mysuru his home and spoke his mind there

At literary gatherings, Bhyrappa would often lace his speeches with anecdotes from his turbulent childhood

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

S.L. Bhyrappa, who had a complex relationship with fellow-writers espousing views antithetical to his opinions, never hesitated to speak out on issues over which he felt strongly.

Though he was invited by the BJP government to inaugurate Mysuru Dasara in 2019, he made it a point to criticise the government for its efforts to convert Chamundi Hills to a tourist centre.

He wanted it to remain a "spiritual destination" and took part in a campaign to oppose the ropeway project.

In Mysuru, where he often spoke at literary gatherings, Bhyrappa would lace his speeches with anecdotes from his turbulent childhood. In many of the literary conferences and seminars in Mysuru, the writer would often scoff at some of the modern writers on the grounds that they were not grounded in philosophy.

S.L. Bhyrappa with historian Ramachandra Guha at the Mysuru Literary Festival in 2017. FILE PHOTO

He often stated that his strong foundation in philosophy, arts, and aesthetics had helped him withstand fiery criticism.

He had also stated many times that his novels espoused "pure literature" as he did not believe in various strands of literary activism. In his own words, "activist-kind of writing" had no lasting value unlike "pure literature."

But he did admit at another point of time that the concerns in society inevitably confronted him, and his novels became a medium to reflect on them.

At a literary conference held in his honour in Mysuru in 2019, he had said that a sound grounding in local culture, tradition, and philosophy lends a solid foundation to literature.

Love at first sight

In *Bhitti*, his autobiography, Bhyrappa has described his first encounter with Mysuru as "love at first sight." The wide, tree-lined avenues, parks and lawns, majestic buildings, and the horse-drawn carriages captivated the young man. Unlike other towns he had passed through, Mysuru felt like home, writes Bhyrappa.

Settling into the city was not without hardship and Bhyrappa writes about renting a small room in Chamundipuram and how he also lived at Anathalaya, the orphanage near Shanthala theatre.

But soon enough, he found his footing, joined Sharada Vilas High School for preliminary education, enrolled for BA (Hons) in Philosophy at Maharaja's College and went on to win a gold medal, pursuing his education with determination that belied his circumstances. He was also awarded the honorary doctorate by the University of Mysore in 2015.

When he was conferred the Padma Shri in 2016, the actual presentation took place at his Mysuru residence in Kuvempunagar.

Thimarody's bail plea hearing posted to Sept. 27

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Dakshina Kannada Principal District and Sessions Judge Basavaraj on Wednesday posted further hearing on the anticipatory bail application of activist Mahesh Shetty Thimarody to September 27.

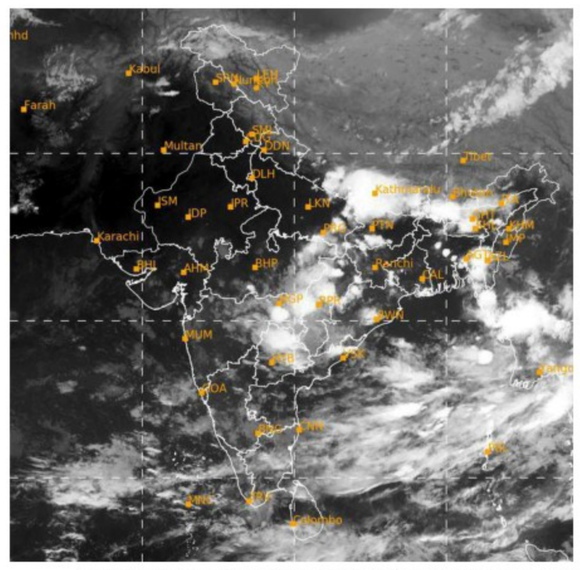
The Judge asked Prosecutor Judith O.M. Crasta to file objections to the bail application by the next date of hearing.

Following a complaint by the Special Investigation Team probing the Dharmasthala case, which found two swords and a gun at Mr. Thimarody's house during the search on August 26, the Belthangady police registered the case against him on September 16 under various sections of the Arms Act.

He had failed to appear before the investigation officer for inquiry despite the issuance of a notice.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.45 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Konkan & Goa, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.4	26.3	Kozhikode	1	32.4	25.5
Ahmedabad	—	34.5	25.2	Kurnool	17	31.0	23.2
Aizawl	48.3	31.9	21.0	Lucknow	—	34.9	26.5
Allahabad	—	33.8	26.5	Madurai	—	37.0	27.1
Bengaluru	1	26.2	19.9	Mangaluru	6	29.8	23.6
Bhopal	—	32.4	23.0	Mumbai	3	31.5	24.0
Bhubaneswar	0.5	33.2	24.9	Mysuru	—	28.0	19.0
Chandigarh	—	35.3	24.2	New Delhi	—	35.4	24.0
Chennai	—	34.6	27.7	Patna	1	34.6	27.6
Coimbatore	—	32.4	23.0	Port Blair	1	29.8	26.9
Dehradun	—	33.8	23.4	Puducherry	—	34.2	26.0
Gangtok	3	26.6	19.4	Pune	0.4	31.8	22.3
Goa	4	30.6	24.5	Raipur	7	25.1	24.8
Guwahati	—	35.7	27.0	Ranchi	16	29.7	22.4
Hubballi	—	27.0	22.0	Shillong	—	25.5	17.1
Hyderabad	1	29.8	21.5	Shimla	—	26.4	19.0
Imphal	—	29.8	21.9	Srinagar	—	30.5	14.6
Jaipur	—	35.8	26.2	Thiruvananthapuram	12	31.0	24.1
Kochi	18	30.4	24.4	Tiruchi	—	35.5	26.6
Kohima	—	27.6	26.4	Vijayawada	—	33.8	25.0
Kolkata	0.8	33.6	26.1	Visakhapatnam	16	33.0	24.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.13	..39	39	 37	...101	.....
Bengaluru	...8	..12	39	 30	...126	.....
Chennai	...2	..16	.—	 45	...134	.....
Delhi	.28	..45	71	 92	...277	.....
Hyderabad	.13	..11	32	 52	...102	.....
Kolkata	...6	..48	24	 48	46	.....
Lucknow	...4	..37	63	... 200	...129	.....
Mumbai	..—	..86	29	 31	54	.....
Pune	..—	..59	22	 49	87	.....
Visakhapatnam	...7	..74	49	 72	92	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 306 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 10

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'Sky is the limit for Coimbatore with right connectivity, capacity'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Coimbatore reported a per capita income of ₹3.67 lakh in 2022-23, against Tamil Nadu's average per capita income of ₹2.75 lakh and the national per capita average of ₹2.2 lakh. This puts the emerging city in a unique vantage position, said Sanjay Chugh, City Head & Director, Anarock Property Consultants, Chennai who was moderating a panel discussion on Coimbatore Unlimited 3.0 organised by G Square and The Hindu Group here on Wednesday.

K.S. Viswanathan, Strategic Advisor, Global Capability Centre, said, sky was the limit for the city as it was staring at a plethora of opportunities. He said that some 300 to 400 new GCCs were expected to come to small cities in the country and therefore it was important for Coimbatore to be ready with capacity and the right infrastructure and connectivity.

(From Left to Right) M. Balasubramaniam, K.S. Viswanathan, Junaith Babu and Sanjay Chugh during the event. SUDHAKARA JAIN

M. Balasubramaniam, Director, Mangal Tirth Estate Ltd. and Founding Director Brookfields Estate said that although still not a metro city, Coimbatore had its first mall, set up by him, some 40 years ago.

According to Junaith Babu, Chief Operating Officer, G Square Group, traditionally the city is called the southern ancestor of India with its cotton, spinning mills, textile machinery and pumps businesses. It opened its first IT park in 1995 and it has 100 engineering colleges producing over 50,000 graduates annually.

The panelists, in unison, opined that to make Coimbatore more attractive to diverse businesses, it must build capacity and focus on talent. It should also have the right connectivity.

It should explore cost arbitrage and have a brand ambassador, they added.

THE HINDU GROUP

CELEBRATING THE QUIET DREAMERS WHO DRIVE POWERFUL CHANGE.

Join us live as we applaud the changemakers shaping tomorrow.

They are the visionaries who dream quietly and act with intent. Their steady pursuit of progress turns belief into action, and action into a future we can all look forward to.

The Hindu businessLine Changemaker Awards 2025 celebrates these leaders of change, recognising the ones who challenge the ordinary and set in motion ripples that transform lives and communities.

This year's edition stands as a testament to their enduring spirit and celebrates the power of ideas that move beyond individuals to transform the course of our collective future.

CHIEF GUEST
Shri Hardeep Singh Puri
Honourable Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India

TIME **6 pm Onwards**
DATE **September 26**
LOCATION **Mumbai**

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Mixed signals

India must face up to the possibility of failure in talks with the U.S.

India-U.S. ties appear to be recovering some of their normal cadence, with trade negotiators resuming talks in Delhi and Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio meeting External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in New York, and a U.S. Congressional delegation visiting India, all within the past week. The U.S. Ambassador-Designate to India, Sergio Gor, has cleared most of the steps in his appointment, and awaits a vote on the U.S. Senate floor before arriving in Delhi. Officials are even outlooking the possibility of a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump at the ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, and even the prospect of Mr. Trump travelling for the much-delayed Quad Summit in India. The Rubio-Jaishankar talks have been the mainstay of the relationship since the new administration came to power. Mr. Jaishankar is on his fifth officially-announced visit in nine months, beginning with a visit in December 2024, when he met the Trump transition team, until July 1, when he attended the Quad Foreign Minister's Meet in Washington, just before U.S. tariffs hit India and bilateral ties. Both men agreed on the importance of sustained talks. The U.S. State Department said issues including "trade, defence, energy, pharmaceuticals and critical minerals" were discussed. Trade talks being led by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal also appear to be taking a positive turn, with hope that compromises would bring them closer on contentious issues such as market access on agriculture, dairy and GM foods, and smoothen the path of a free trade agreement with the promise of Indian investments and purchase of American military hardware and energy.

However, Mr. Trump's recent actions and words have belied any sense of relief in the talks being restored. The decision to revoke India's sanctions waiver for its Chabahar port operations, followed by the Executive Order for a $100,000 visa fee for H-1B professionals were unexpected blows. His speech at the UN General Assembly made it clear that the U.S. could increase pressure on India to end its Russian oil purchases, and will continue to hold to its narrative on mediating the India-Pakistan conflict in May, which is frustrating for the Modi government as it has denied the U.S.'s role. Such moves may be negotiating tactics, to keep India on the back foot in trade negotiations, or an indication that the administration does not prioritise building a predictable and dependable partnership. Bilateral ties are a two-way street, and while New Delhi must be ready to deal patiently with more such bumps and hard knocks, it must also be prepared to walk away if or when that becomes necessary.

Golden feats

Football is a team sport, but it allows for individual brilliance

Choosing the best footballers on the planet is an unenviable task. Aside from the fact that elevating individual players to superstardom in a quintessential team sport is fraught with pitfalls, *France Football*, the French magazine which has long presented the Ballon d'Or, sets exacting standards. The criteria for the 100 journalists from the top 100 FIFA-ranked countries – 50 in case of women – to keep in mind while voting includes 'individual and decisive performance, collective successes and team achievements, and fair play and public image', an incredibly tough balance to achieve. In Paris on Monday night, this arduous exercise for the 2024-25 season culminated in Ousmane Dembele and Aitana Bonmati being adjudged the best men's and women's footballers, respectively. For the 28-year-old Dembele, the award represented a redemptive arc. After first breaking out at French club Rennes as a boy wonder and then exhilarating fans in Germany while playing for Borussia Dortmund, Dembele's career stagnated following a big-money move to Barcelona in 2017. Joining in the immediate aftermath of Brazilian's superstar Neymar's exit from the Spanish giants, the Frenchman crumbled under pressure and gained the reputation of being wayward and lacking in discipline. But after moving to Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) in 2023 and taking nearly a year to settle, Dembele has thrived.

Under Spanish coach Luis Enrique, Dembele scored a career-high 35 goals and assisted 16 across 53 appearances in all competitions in 2024-25. It helped that there were no international men's competitions of repute and club form was all that mattered. And Dembele led PSG to a fantastic treble of Ligue 1, Coupe de France and a historic first UEFA Champions League title. At the start of the season, PSG lost one of its biggest stars Kylian Mbappe to Real Madrid. Dembele was not part of Enrique's initial solution and was even dropped for a match after reporting late for training. But once he was thrust into the leader's role in December 2024, Dembele took off, adding ruthless efficiency to his incredible dribbling and running skills, and never looked back. Bonmati's accolade, in contrast, is for sustained excellence. She collected her third successive best player award to join Lionel Messi and Michel Platini as the only three to have done so. She led Barcelona to a domestic treble, and her country Spain to the final of the European Championship this July barely weeks after recovering from viral meningitis. Spain lost the final to England on penalties and the 27-year-old missed a spot-kick, but her Player of the Tournament award then and the Ballon d'Or now are affirmations that she is the undisputed best.

India's muted voice, its detachment with Palestine

Sonia Gandhi

is Chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party

France has joined the United Kingdom, Canada, Portugal and Australia in recognising Palestinian statehood – the first step in the fulfilment of the legitimate aspirations of the long-suffering Palestinian people. One hundred and fifty-plus of the 193 countries that are members of the United Nations have now done so. India had been a leader in this regard having formally recognised Palestinian statehood way back on November 18, 1988, after years of support to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). India's decision was fundamentally a moral one and in keeping with our world view.

A voice that stood out in the past

Even before Independence, India raised the issue of Apartheid South Africa in the UN and cut off trade relations with the apartheid regime. During the Algerian struggle for independence (1954-62), India was one of the strongest voices for an independent Algeria, ensuring that the international community could not forget that decisive battleground in the crusade against imperialism. In 1971, India intervened firmly to prevent genocide in what was then East Pakistan, midwifing the birth of modern-day Bangladesh. When much of the world merely stood by amidst the bloodshed in Vietnam, India was the voice of moral clarity, seeking peace and opposing foreign brutality against the Vietnamese people. Even today, India contributes one of the largest contingents to the UN's Peacekeeping Forces. The promotion of 'international peace and security' is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution of India.

On the critical and sensitive issue of Israel-Palestine as well, India has long maintained a delicate but principled position, emphasising its commitment to peace and the protection of human rights. India was among the first countries to recognise the PLO in 1974 and has consistently supported a two-state solution that guarantees Palestine's right to self-determination while encouraging peaceful coexistence with Israel. Over the years, India has backed numerous UN resolutions affirming Palestinian rights and condemning the occupation and settlement expansion in the West Bank. At the same time, India has maintained full diplomatic relations with Israel. Through multilateral forums such as the UN, the Non-Aligned Movement, and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) observer platforms, India has urged negotiated settlements, adherence to international law, and a cessation of violence. India has also provided humanitarian and development aid to Palestine, including scholarships for students, support for education and health care, and capacity-building for institutions in Gaza and the West Bank.

> India needs to demonstrate leadership on the issue of Palestine, which is now a battle for justice, identity, dignity and human rights

India's stand today

In the last two years, since the outbreak of hostilities between Israel and Palestine in October 2023, India has all but relinquished its role. The brutal and inhumane Hamas attacks on Israeli civilians on October 7, 2023, were followed by an Israeli response that has been nothing less than genocidal. As I have previously raised, more than 55,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed, including 17,000 children. The residential, schooling and health infrastructure of the Gaza Strip has been obliterated, as have agriculture and industry. Gazans have been forced into a famine-like situation, with the Israeli military cruelly obstructing the delivery of much-needed food, medicine, and other aid – a 'drip-feeding' of aid amidst an ocean of desperation. In one of the most revolting acts of inhumanity, hundreds of civilians have been shot down while trying to access food.

The world has been slow to respond, implicitly legitimising the Israeli actions. The recent moves by several countries to recognise Palestine as a sovereign state are a welcome and long-due departure from the policy of inaction. This is a historical moment, and an assertion of the principles of justice, self-determination and human rights. These steps are not merely diplomatic gestures; they are affirmations of the moral responsibility that nations bear in the face of prolonged injustice. It is a reminder that in the modern world, silence is not neutrality – it is complicity. And here, India's voice, once so unwavering in the cause of freedom and human dignity, has remained conspicuously muted.

The Modi government's response has been characterised by a profound silence and an abdication of both humanity and morality. Its actions appear to be driven primarily by the personal friendship between the Israeli premier and Mr. Modi rather than India's constitutional values or its strategic interests. This style of personalised diplomacy is never tenable and cannot be the guiding compass of India's foreign policy. Attempts to do the same in other parts of the world – most notably, in the United States – have come undone in the most painful and humiliating ways in recent months. India's standing on the world stage cannot be wrapped up into the personal glory-seeking ways of one individual, nor can it rest on its historical laurels. It demands persistent courage and a sense of historical continuity.

Meanwhile, it is appalling that just two weeks ago, India not only signed a bilateral investment agreement with Israel, in New Delhi, but also hosted its highly controversial far-right Finance Minister who has invited global condemnation for his repeated incitements of violence against Palestinian communities in the occupied West Bank.

Act now

Most fundamentally, India must not approach the issue of Palestine as merely a matter of foreign policy but as a test of India's ethical and civilisational heritage. The people of Palestine have endured decades of displacement, prolonged occupation, settlement expansion, restrictions on movement and repeated assaults on their civil, political and human rights. Their plight echoes the struggles that India faced during the colonial era – a people deprived of their sovereignty, denied a nationhood, exploited for their resources, and stripped of all rights and security. We owe Palestine a sense of historical empathy in its quest for dignity, and we also owe Palestine the courage to translate that empathy into principled action.

India's historical experience, its moral authority and its commitment to human rights should empower it to speak, advocate and act in favour of justice – without delay or hesitation. The expectation is not of partisanship in this conflict, of choosing between Israel and Palestine. The expectation is of principled leadership, consistent with the values that have long guided India, our nation, and on which its freedom movement was anchored.

Just a pinch can reduce an Indian's salt overload

Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya

is a practising physician and Founder-Director, Foundation for People-Centric Health Systems, New Delhi. He has worked for nearly 18 years with the World Health Organization and UNICEF

C.K. Mishra

is a former Union Health Secretary, Government of India

There is renewed attention in India on the harmful effects of high sugar food items and the use of fats or oils in cooking. The context is the rising burden of non-communicable diseases (NCD), more so obesity, in all age groups including in children and adolescents. However, there is one component which is of equal if not bigger concern and an issue that is not receiving adequate attention. It is the subject of the high consumption of salt by India's population.

There is scientific data that Indian adults consume nearly eight to 11 grams of salt every day. This is double the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended daily salt intake of five to six grams per day. Salt is very much a part of the Indian diet. Much of the salt intake – nearly three-fourth – in India is from home-made food items. Pickles, *papad*/*papadam* and many other items that are rich in salt are part of home-made food.

Visible and invisible forms

There is also the cultural practice of having a salt shaker on the dining table or the surfaces around it which also helps increase salt intake. Eating out is becoming common – nearly one-fifth of adults eat outside, three times a week on average. Essentially, restaurants are an extension of an individual's food habits. Therefore, in an attempt to make the food served tastier, these eating places add more oils and butter, which require more salt to be added to suit the taste buds. In addition to visible salt, there is also invisible salt present in many items – bread, cookies, ketchups and even sweet items such as cakes and pastries. All packaged food items have salt as a preservative or as a taste enhancer. What is available in the market is often a variety of high fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) and ultra processed food items.

It is not that excess salt consumption is harmless. The adverse health impacts of excess salt intake are well documented. The high intake of salt is a key factor in India's growing burden of hypertension, which affects 28.1% of adults and significantly increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases. Yet, salt does not get sufficient public health attention. The current discourse is about sugar boards or the need for attention on oil boards (visual information panels in public places to highlight high sugar and fat content in foods) but there is limited advocacy for reducing one's salt intake.

> India's population is consuming too much salt — double the World Health Organization's recommended daily intake

Moving beyond awareness campaigns

Salt reduction is a public health imperative. The WHO calls salt reduction a "best buy" intervention, with research suggesting that for every dollar invested in scaling up salt reduction interventions, there will be a return of at least $12. While current efforts promote awareness measures, these alone do not solve the problem.

Salt consumption is also linked to widely prevalent myths in India. For example, there are many who believe that salts such as rock salt, black salt and Himalayan pink salt, are better and have health benefits, which is not true. All types of salt contain sodium with minor range variations.

Excess sodium, regardless of the source, contributes to high blood pressure and linked harmful effects. Some of these salt formulations have a less than salty taste and thus are consumed more. Further, these types of salt are usually not iodised, and their use could lead to iodine deficiency.

In such a situation, it is time that we start paying attention to reduced salt intake in a multi-pronged approach. First, the isolated approaches of a focus on a 'sugar board' and 'oil board', need to be expanded into a more comprehensive strategy of HFSS boards, where equal attention is given to ensure salt reduction. We need to be mindful that ultra processed food or anything which requires packaging often has excess salt (and possibly sugar and fat as well).

Second, there is a need for public awareness campaigns to change behaviour which includes gradual salt reduction while cooking, flavouring with herbs and spices, and replacing regular salt with low-sodium salt substitutes. Here, a word of caution, replacing sodium based salt with high potassium salt should be done with medical advice as higher potassium salt could be risky for some people such as those with kidney diseases.

Third, a salty taste is an acquired taste. If a person is exposed to high salt food, the person is likely to consume more salt to get a similar taste. Therefore, salt reduction should start with children. In fact, babies (up to one year) should not be given any added salt. Even toddlers and pre-school children should not be given added salt. Of course, they can have the same food items which adults eat, made from the common kitchen.

Fourth, every day, millions of vulnerable Indians including children in schools, pregnant women in Anganwadi centres, and patients in hospitals rely on government-provided meals. These programmes are critical touchpoints for public health. Yet, mechanisms to regulate or monitor salt content in these meals are still evolving. Reforming public food procurement norms to mandate salt limits, train cooks, and set standards can improve health outcomes in the most at-risk populations.

Fifth, there is a need for more proactive front-of-pack nutritional labels which inform readers about warnings regarding high salt content of specific items, as it has been done in Latin American countries. In this, Chile is a front leader. India must adopt mandatory warning labels, salt ceilings in processed foods, and restrict marketing of unhealthy foods to children.

Sixth, community and family-level initiatives such as restaurants removing salt shakers from tables (providing them only on demand) and families doing weekly reviews of high salt and fat and sugar items in the kitchen (and dispose of and not purchase more) will help in reducing salt intake. More such innovations would be needed.

An integration with health programmes

Seventh, India's own National Multisectoral Action Plan (NMAP) for prevention and control of NCDs (2017-22) includes salt reduction as a priority. While several steps have been taken, a more integrated, cross-ministerial approach could further strengthen the impact. As the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is working on a new multi-sectoral plan for NCDs, it is time for additional bold steps. To effectively reduce salt intake at the population level, it is essential to have and implement a combination of regulatory measures and community-based interventions.

Integrating salt reduction strategies into existing national health programmes can facilitate this process.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trumpeting a line

It appears that there is no end to Donald Trump's repeated boasting that it was only his intervention alone that stopped the India-Pakistan conflict notwithstanding the Narendra Modi regime's firm response, in no uncertain terms, that it never sought any third party mediation. It is difficult to fathom as to why the U.S President, in his speech at the United Nations General Assembly, heaped criticism on the global body.

S. Seshadri,
Chennai

The line by Mr. Trump, that India is funding the Russian war, has shown him in a bad light. He could have come up with unimpeachable proof and data to substantiate his charge. It is not known why he is perturbed about trade between India and Russia when the American economy is robust.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

Visa fee controversy

The claim by U.S. President Donald Trump that in the future, H-1B visas would be issued only after a one-time payment of $100,000 is intriguing. He has overlooked the fact that it is a visa fee, and not a tax, and should be commensurate with the services rendered. The response by some tech companies that they would shift their activities outside America were the U.S. government to charge such a visa fee is a moment of reflection for the Indian government and Indians in general. It is both strategic and essential that India fosters innovation.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

This pricing is a bad brew

I was surprised to notice a strange pricing practice in the instant coffee market. A 100 gram bottle costs about ₹350 (₹3.50 per gram). But the same brand's sachet sells for only ₹2. Usually, packs are more expensive per gram because of the extra packaging. Does this mean that the sachet has a different concoction/blend, thereby compromising on quality? It only shows how little transparency there is in such pricing.

R. Manthramurthy,
Bengaluru

Dickie Bird

The passing of Harold 'Dickie' Bird marks the end of an era in cricket. As one of the most respected umpires in the history of the game, he was more than just a man in a white coat. He was a symbol of fairness, humility, and quiet humour that endeared him to players and fans across generations. In a time when cricket has become faster, flashier, and increasingly scrutinised by technology, he represented the soul of traditional cricket — a reminder that the game is, at its heart, a gentleman's sport.

Nagarajamani M.V.,
Hyderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Follow the rains, not the calendar, to fight floods

Pratha Mishra
Research Analyst, Council on Energy, Environment and Water. Views are personal

Nitin Bassi
Fellow, Council on Energy, Environment and Water. Views are personal

Each year, urban India braces for the monsoon – contractors are deployed, drains desilted, and emergency protocols rehearsed. Yet, when the rain finally arrives – often untimely and more intense than expected – headlines are dominated by flooded roads, waterlogged homes, and stranded commuters. The deeper issue is that our cities are often still designed for a climate that no longer exists.

Northern States are seeing heavy flooding even in September, with all of Punjab's 23 districts being hit by floods. Delhi and Gurugram have been inundated by intense rains, and Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are experiencing frequent cloudbursts. In the east, Kolkata is facing torrential rains.

Timing, amount, and intensity

But the rains came early too. In May, Mumbai recorded 135.4 mm of rainfall in just 24 hours, followed by 161.9 mm the next day. Delhi recorded 81 mm fall within a few hours on the same day, overwhelming the drainage systems. This shift in rainfall timings is not new; yet our preparedness remains tethered to outdated schedules. Drain cleaning, for instance, still follows the June monsoon calendar.

Cities must follow the rain to be able to bridge the gap between schedules, and readiness and reality. An analysis by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water shows that about 64% of Indian tehsils have seen a rise in the frequency of heavy rainfall days by 1-15 days, especially in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Karnataka. The consequences for urban systems are significant, from localised flooding to disruptions in essential services. In the last two decades, floods have caused most of the loss to life and property from natural disasters in India. Today, a single flood can cause damages of some ₹8,700 crore, with such events becoming increasingly frequent.

Indian cities are often designed for a climate that no longer exists

The challenge is not just the amount of rainfall, but also the intensity. Intensity, Duration, Frequency (IDF) curves, which track rainfall patterns over time, offer an interesting picture. For instance, CEEW's analysis of daily rainfall from 1970 to 2021 in the coastal city of Thane shows that one-hour rainfall now reaches 50 mm once every two years, and about 80 mm per hour once every 50 years. This means such heavy rainfall can be expected to occur within hours, leaving little room for cities to respond. There is also a sharp difference between how much rain falls in one hour versus three hours, revealing that rainfall that once spread across a day may now have a higher chance of falling within an hour. We propose three interlinked actions to prepare Indian cities better for the monsoons and flood-proof them.

Preparing for the monsoon

First, city authorities should incorporate sub-daily rainfall analysis into city monsoon planning. Municipalities must move beyond long-term averages and integrate recent patterns and short-duration, high-intensity rainfall events that unfold within a few hours, into infrastructure design. Real-time data on sub-daily rainfall, which occurs over intervals shorter than 24 hours, must inform citizens about drainage operations and upgrades. For instance, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has announced this year that it will widen its drains to handle up to 120 mm of rainfall in an hour.

While India's monsoon officially spans 100-120 days, just a few hours of intense rain across select days account for most of the seasonal rainfall. Yet, maintenance and planning assume a uniform spread. This illusion of consistency leads to systems that fail not due to excessive seasonal totals, but hourly extremes. Recognising this compression is the first step towards resilience.

Second, align cleaning of storm water drains and municipal solid waste management calendars. An overlooked cause of urban flooding is unmanaged waste – plastic, debris, and litter frequently block drains. Yet storm water and waste are handled by separate departments on different schedules. While the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs recommends drain cleaning before, during, and after the monsoon, its effectiveness hinges on coordination with waste collection. Even a freshly cleaned drain can clog again if garbage is left uncollected nearby. Ideally, storm water and sanitation departments must coordinate, especially during high-risk periods. Rainfall alerts from the India Meteorological Department should automatically trigger joint sanitation drives and drain inspections in vulnerable areas. In Vijayawada, such coordination – through monsoon response teams composed of officials from the sanitation, engineering, and planning departments – has reduced waterlogging and eased conditions for residents.

Third, city authorities must update IDF curves every 5-10 years to ensure that infrastructure keeps pace with evolving rainfall patterns. Without this, new drainage systems will continue to rely on outdated data, leaving them ill-equipped to handle present day storm water run-off volumes. In response to recent intensifying rains, the BMC has also proposed expanding storm water capacity and preparing a new drainage master plan based on updated trends. Drainage design should also be based on micro-catchment-level hydrological analysis that accounts for topography, which affects peak discharge during storms. New systems must be separated from the sewerage networks to avoid overload and ensure efficiency. We are not losing to the rain, but to the idea that the rain fits into seasonal boxes. Instead of asking when the monsoon will begin, we need to ask, are we prepared for the rain already falling?

A colonial city that is crumbling

A lack of accountability has become a hallmark of the Trinamool regime

STATE OF PLAY

Shiv Sahay Singh
shivsahay.s@thehindu.co.in

On September 23, Kolkata received rainfall of about 252 mm rainfall in a span of just 6-7 hours, which led to flooding and the deaths of nine people in the city and its adjoining districts. Eight of the deaths occurred in Kolkata alone. All the victims – most of them street vendors and security guards – were electrocuted in the waterlogged streets of the metropolis after coming in contact with an exposed electrical source. As the city limps back to normalcy, the question that everyone is asking is, who is responsible for these deaths?

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee blamed the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) for the deaths and said that it should award compensation to the kin of the deceased as the death was due to its negligence. She added that she reached out to CESC chairman Sanjiv Goenka on the issue. CESC, which is a flagship company of the RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group, has a monopoly over power distribution in Kolkata and several adjoining areas. The company did not publicly respond to her allegations, but said a statement on social media that "street light poles and traffic lights are not owned, maintained or managed by the CESC".

Ms. Banerjee also blamed the Union government's lack of initiative in carrying out dredging at the Farakka Barrage, almost 300 kilometres upstream on the river Ganga, for water logging in the city.

According to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, the estimated population of the city is 4.5 million. Kolkata also sustains a floating population of about 6 million. It has done little to upgrade its infrastructure, however. From falling flyovers to roads filled with craters, the city is crumbling.

Until a few decades ago, Kolkata had an elaborate network of creeks and canals that would pump sewage into the East Kolkata Wetlands. However, these structures have been filled up. Illegal constructions have come up and have choked the sewerage and drainage network of the city.

In February 2025, the Asian Development Bank approved a $200 million loan for a project to develop a climate- and disaster-resilient sewerage and drainage system in Kolkata, but no action can be seen on the ground yet.

Blaming a private company such as the CESC or Central government agencies such as the Farakka Barrage and the Damodar Valley Corporation is an attempt by the State government to deflect accountability. The Kolkata Municipal Corporation and the government will have to take responsibility for the loss of lives, which was clearly avoidable.

Ms. Banerjee also indicated that the arrangement of electricity supply by the CESC to Kolkata was operational since the regime of the Left Front government. But her government has not done enough to change the status quo in the last 14 years.

In May 2020, when a super cyclone, Amphan, ravaged Kolkata leaving about 100 dead in the State, the Chief Minister stormed into the CESC office and blamed the electricity supply corporation for mismanagement. Five years later, it has stuck to the same script. In fact, lack of accountability has become a hallmark of the Trinamool Congress regime. Unless there is admission of a lapse, no corrective measures can be taken. The issue will simply be brushed under the carpet until the next disaster.

The government was quick to announce compensation of ₹2 lakh to the kin of the deceased. Ms. Banerjee also urged the CESC to provide compensation of ₹5 lakh to the kin of the deceased. Monetary compensation can provide temporary succour to the grieving families, but it cannot improve the crumbling civic infrastructure of the city. While Ms. Banerjee was prompt in announcing compensation, she has not said anything on the registration of FIRs and on starting a probe into the deaths.

The Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, said that Haldia Energy, a group company of the RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group, was the second highest donor to the Trinamool through electoral bonds. The company donated about ₹281 crore, he noted. Mr. Adhikari added that he would ensure that FIRs are registered. He also accused the Chief Minister of hurting Hindu sentiments by inaugurating puja pandals ahead of Mahalaya, which he claimed had caused the natural disaster.

The residents of Kolkata deserve not only better civic infrastructure, but more accountability and a rational discourse on the challenges they face.

The $100k visa fee raises new hurdles for Indian students eyeing U.S. jobs

Indians who recently became the largest group of foreign students could be priced out of the American job market

DATA POINT

Areena Arora
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Following the U.S. government's decision to impose a one-time $1,00,000 fee on new H-1B visa applications, data suggests that foreign students pursuing their degrees in the U.S. – particularly Indians, who form the largest group of international students – will be significantly affected.

Associated Press quoted U.S. student visa holders who are attempting to secure an H-1B, saying they are now reconsidering settling in the country. Not just students already in the U.S., but also many in India who aspire to enrol in American universities and work there told AP and Reuters that it feels like "a door [is] closing."

Most experts believe the new rule will apply to foreign students in the U.S. Some immigration lawyers, however, caution that significant grey areas remain. While the finer details are still being worked out, the fee hike would have a telling impact on Indian students, who only last year overtook Chinese students to become the largest group of international students in the U.S. **(Chart 1)**. Together, these two countries account for 80% of the foreign students.

A majority of Indian students go to the U.S. for their Master's degree. Those who graduated in 2022 and opted for an optional practical training (OPT) work permit – which allows immigrant students to work in the U.S. for 1-3 years – will typically now be in the queue for an H-1B visa. This means students who will be hit by Mr. Trump's new visa fee will be those who have been in the country for many years, having already invested tens of thousands of dollars.

The new rule will especially hit those who graduate with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) degree, one of the most sought-after fields for employers. Indian students are particularly vulnerable because a majority of them pursue STEM courses. Among the two largest groups of foreign students in the U.S., more than 75% of Indians are enrolled in STEM fields, compared with about 50% of Chinese **(Chart 2)**.

Typically, a STEM student enters the H-1B queue 2-3 years after graduating. Last year, 37% of all H-1B petitions approved for initial (new) employment – the category to which the new fee applies – were filed by foreign students in the U.S. who were on F-1 visas. In some previous years, this share crossed the 45% mark **(Chart 3)**.

While the exact share of Indian students on F-1 visas who were approved for initial H-1B employment cannot be determined directly, two other figures highlight the scale. In FY24, 57% of all initial H-1B beneficiaries were Indians, with Chinese nationals a distant second at 14%. When this is read alongside the fact that over 75% of Indian students in the U.S. are enrolled in STEM courses, it strongly suggests that a very large share of H-1B beneficiaries moving from student status to initial employment were Indians.

By the time Indian students complete their OPT, they would have already contributed several years of tuition and living expenses to the U.S. economy. Last year, international students spent nearly $44 billion on their education including tuition fees, housing, food and other daily expenses in the U.S. Over half of this money comes from their personal and family savings **(Chart 4)**. A study by non-profit NAFSA, the Association of International Educators, found that in 2024, on average, international students spent about $39,000 each in the U.S. Given that Indians are among the largest group of international students, a significant share of this spending comes from Indian households, many of whom take on loans or exhaust savings to cover these costs.

Tough lessons

The data for the charts were sourced from Dataful, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and NAFSA: Association of International Educators

Chart 1: Country-wise number of international students studying in the U.S.

Last year, Indian students overtook Chinese students to become the largest group of international students in the U.S.

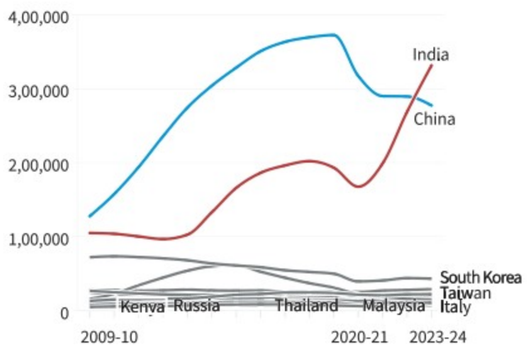


Chart 2: The share of students from China and India enrolled in STEM and non-STEM courses as of 2024. Figures in %

Graduates from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) courses are the most sought-after by employers

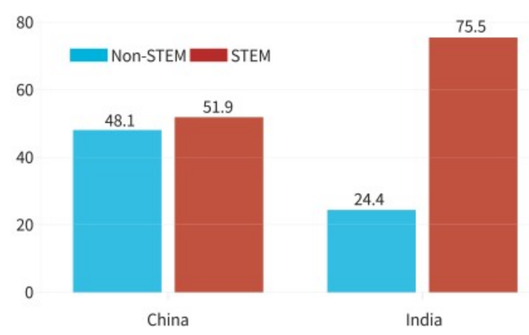


Chart 3: Share of initial (new) H-1B beneficiaries previously holding F-1 student status

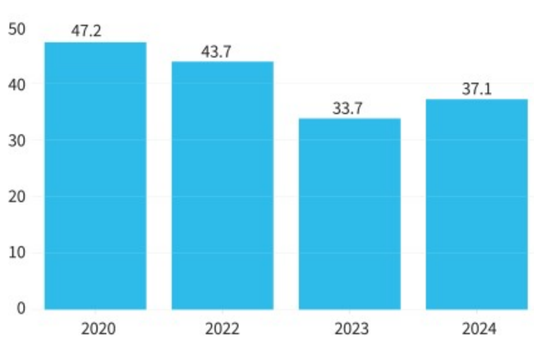
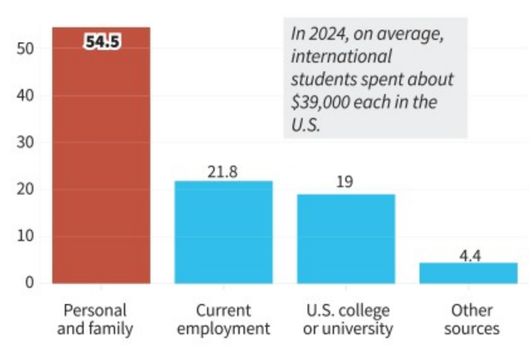


Chart 4: Sources of funding used by international students studying in the U.S. for the year 2023-24



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 25, 1975

Rupee delinked from pound to stabilise exchange rate

New Delhi, Sept. 24: The rupee has been delinked from the pound sterling. Announcing this to-day, the Government of India said the exchange value of the rupee will be determined with reference to the daily exchange rate movements of a "select number of currencies of countries which are India's major trading partners."

The pound sterling will, however, continue to be used by the Reserve Bank of India as its "currency of intervention."

The Government has been reviewing in the light of recent developments in the international currency markets, the present exchange rate arrangements under which the central rate for the rupee is designated in terms of pound sterling. It has come to the conclusion that in the altered circumstances, it is necessary to move over immediately to a new arrangement which, on balance may be expected to impart a greater measure of stability to the rupee's exchange rate and in consequence to India's international transactions.

The present decision to link the rupee to a basket of currencies replaces the existing arrangement under which the rupee has been floating along with the British pound since June 1972. Mr. C. Subramaniam, Union Finance Minister, gave an indication of the Government's thinking on these lines recently.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 25, 1925

University as an international asset

Mysore, Sept. 24: Dr. Mary F. Williams, of the University of California, delivered an interesting lecture this morning on the above-named subject in the Maharaja's College. After giving a lucid account of University life in California, Dr. Williams spoke of the social and intellectual factors in University life that were of an abiding cultural significance. She said that for a proper understanding of the East and the West and of their systems of thought and culture, an interchanging of Professors of the various Universities was essential, and hoped that the Universities in India would hasten to take their proper place in internationalising Universities.

From Page One

Protest turns deadly; Ministry blames activist

The Ministry added that the process of dialogue through the high-powered committee had yielded phenomenal results, such as increasing reservation for Ladakh Scheduled Tribe from 45% to 84%, providing one-third reservation for women in the councils, and declaring Bhoti and Purgi as official languages. The process for recruitment for 1,800 posts had also commenced, the Ministry said.

Ladakh Lieutenant-Governor Kavinder Gupta, in a televised address, confirmed the deaths but did not specify the number, adding that curfew had been imposed as a precautionary measure.

"Deployment of security personnel was made in the wake of a shutdown call to maintain law and order in Leh. The security personnel were provided with *lathis* (batons). However, there was an attempt to burn down a CRPF vehicle with personnel in it. The vehicle of the Director-General of Police was attacked with stones," Mr. Gupta said.

On Tuesday, Home Ministry officials had called a delegation of seven leaders from Ladakh to Delhi on September 26 for a preliminary meeting, Cherring Dorjay Lakruk, the president of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Lakruk, who is also the co-convener of the Leh Apex Body (LAB), which had been spearheading the protests, told *The Hindu* that a large number of people in the age group of 14-25 joined the protests on Wednesday.

Following the violence, Mr. Wangchuk called off the hunger strike. Addressing a virtual press conference, he said that "nobody had an inkling something like this will happen". "Many leaders who came here said that peaceful protests are not enough. We never thought it will explode like this. Ladakh witnessed Gen Z frenzy today. They were not listening to anybody. They were not even afraid of bullets. This is the fifth time we have sat on a hunger strike. The youth said peaceful protests are not working... we were being told by the youth for the past few days," Mr. Wangchuk said.

Accusing the government of defeating the peaceful protests by forcing the youth to take up violence, Mr. Wangchuk said, "We had not seen the faces of Gen Z who protested today. Till today, our complaint was that the youth are not participating and only the elderly are part of the protest. Only 25-30 youth participated so far; today it was beyond our imagination."

The government, in a statement, said people should not circulate old and provocative videos in media and social media.

X's plea against orders for takedown rejected

Referring to laws in the U.S. on social media, the court said, "The United States of America regulates it, every sovereign nation regulates it, and India's result likewise cannot, by any stretch of constitutional imagination, be branded as unlawful. Unregulated speech under the guise of liberty becomes a licence for lawlessness."

Noting that X Corp. is subjected to a regulatory regime in the U.S., which is the platform's birthplace, the court said that "under the Take It Down Act of the United States, it [X Corp.] chooses to follow the said Act as it criminalises the violation of orders of take-down, but the same petitioner refuses to follow the same in the shores of this nation..."

Regulated speech preserves both liberty and order, the twin pillars upon which a democracy must stand, the court said, while emphasising that "no social media platform in the modern day agora may even feign the semblance of exemption from rigour or discipline of the laws of the land."

"None may presume to treat the Indian marketplace as a mere playground where information can be disseminated in defiance of statutes or disregard to legality, and later adopting a posture of detachment or a hands-off," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

Lawyers' body demands 'corrections' to collegium mechanism

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) has written to Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal flagging the urgent need to usher in a "transparent and equitable framework" for appointment of judges in the top court and High Courts. The lawyers' body headed by SCBA president and senior advocate Vikas Singh highlighted the immediate requirement to finalise the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment of judges, a task pending since the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) law was struck down as unconstitutional in 2015.

The months following had seen revised drafts of the MoP shuttling between the Supreme Court Collegium and the Law Ministry for months before efforts ending in a logjam. The government has claimed it is waiting for the Collegium's inputs on one of the drafts while the latter maintains it has already given its final views in March 2017.

The SCBA has sought "urgent and comprehensive correction" of the "structural flaws" in the Collegium mechanism while ensuring that judicial independence is maintained intact.

Global South must work together, says Jaishankar

India hosts meet of 20 'like-minded' countries on sidelines of UNGA; External Affairs Minister says multilateralism under attack and international organisations are being rendered ineffective

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

On one platform: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar speaks at a high-level meeting of like-minded Global South countries in New York on Wednesday. ANI

The concept of multilateralism is "under attack", even as countries of the Global South are seeking more solutions from international organisations such as the United Nations, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said.

Speaking at a specially convened "high-level meeting of like-minded Global South countries" in New York on Tuesday, Mr. Jaishankar pitched for more consultations between developing countries and a joint push for UN reforms.

He said the state of the world was a cause for concern for all countries, listing a number of "shocks", including the pandemic, conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, climate change, and trade uncertainties. He also called for an "urgent resolution of conflicts that are impacting food, fertilizer and energy security". Twenty countries took part in the meeting hosted by India, including 10 at the Ministerial level.

"In face of such proliferation of concerns and multiplicity of risks, it is natural that the Global South would turn to multilateralism for solutions," Mr. Jaishankar said. "Unfortunately, there too we are presented with a very disappointing prospect. The very concept of multilateralism is under attack. International organisations are being rendered ineffective or starved of resources," he added.

Nine countries from Asia, five from the Americas (South and North, including the Caribbean), and six from Africa took part in the meeting held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Only Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Mauritius were present from India's neighbourhood among the group. The meeting was the first of its kind, although officials did not confirm whether India now planned to hold such meetings regularly. India has hosted the "Voice of Global South Summit" in which about 125 countries have been invited for the past three years. It is unclear why the 20 countries present at the UN meeting had been chosen as "like-minded" rather than others, and whether more others had also been invited but declined due to scheduling issues.

The countries represented at the meeting included Bahrain, Indonesia, Qatar, Singapore, and Vietnam from Asia; St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba, and Jamaica from North America; Suriname from South America; and Chad, Ghana, Lesotho, Morocco, Nigeria, and Somalia from Africa.

Mr. Jaishankar did not name any country for the "attacks on multilateralism", but his comments came a day after U.S. President Donald Trump's UNGA address. In his address, Mr. Trump criticised the UN system for not delivering peace in various conflicts, claiming he had resolved seven conflicts in the past few months, including the India-Pakistan conflict, without any help from the UN.

The U.S. has drastically cut its funding for the UN this year and withdrawn from several UN organisations, including the UN Human Rights Council and UNESCO. It has called for a review of other memberships in the UN system.

NIA books Pannun over his call to stop Modi from hoisting flag

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has registered a case against designated terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun of the U.S.-based banned outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) for "attempting to instigate Sikh soldiers to stop Prime Minister Narendra Modi from hoisting the national flag at Red Fort on August 15", for which he offered a ₹11-crore reward.

Following a reference from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the agency has instituted the case based on "credible" information and a video posted via the official X handle of the outfit, on August 10, in which Pannun declared reward to prevent Mr. Modi from hoisting the National Flag.

"He has unveiled a new map of Khalistan, which includes Punjab, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. He has declared that SFJ has formed a Shaheed Jatha to fight against India. By doing so he has indulged in activities for disrupting sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security of India and spread disaffection among Sikhs against India," the FIR said.

The NIA has invoked provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against Pannun.

No relief for journalist against gag order over reporting on Adani

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Paranjoy Guha Thakurta

A Delhi court on Wednesday reserved order on the appeal filed by journalist Paranjoy Guha Thakurta against an ex-parte gag order restraining reporting on Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL).

The court also issued notice to the AEL on a plea filed by the digital news platform *Newslaundry* on the same issue.

A city court, on September 6, had passed an ex-parte injunction in a defamation case filed by the AEL restraining Mr. Thakurta, Ravi Nair, Abir Dasgupta, Ayaskant Das, and Ayush Joshi, from publishing "allegedly defamatory" material about the company.

The journalists challenged the order and the matter is being heard by two different courts – one by District Judge Sunil Chaudhary and the other by Judge Ashish Aggarwal.

While Mr. Aggarwal on September 18 set aside the gag order for journalists Ravi Nair, Abir Dasgupta, Ayaskant Das, and Ayush Joshi, Mr. Chaudhary declined the plea for an urgent hearing filed by Mr. Thakurta and *Newslaundry*.

On September 22, Mr. Chaudhary said it would be appropriate if the case was heard by Mr. Aggarwal since the latter had already dealt with and passed orders in the case, while the same was declined by Principal District and Sessions judge Gurvinder Pal Singh on Tuesday.

The matter was again heard by Mr. Chaudhary on Wednesday.

The advocate representing Adani Enterprises Ltd. submitted in the court that even Mr. Aggarwal had set aside the order of the lower court.

"The other court can't impose its views on your lordships," the AEL said.

Counsel for Mr. Thakurta claimed that if they get immediate relief, his client will be able to get the articles restored which were deleted on the orders of the lower court.

Thereafter, the court reserved its verdict.

In the case of *Newslaundry*'s plea, Mr. Chaudhary noted that the news portal was not an aggrieved party since it was not one of the defendants named by the AEL in its suit before the civil court.

The organisation added that if the intermediaries hosting their videos are asked to take down the same due to the gag order passed by the civil court, the media platform can challenge the same separately.

The matter will be heard next on October 15 after the court issued a notice to Adani Enterprises Limited on their appeal.

Police arrest prime accused in Assam Rifles ambush

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The prime suspect in the ambush of an Assam Rifles vehicle, in which two personnel were killed in Manipur's Bishnupur district on Friday, was arrested on Wednesday, the police said.

The accused, identified as Khundongbam Ojit Singh, 47, is a member of the banned Meitei insurgent outfit Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) and is on bail, the Manipur Police said in a statement. The insurgent group, which operates from Myanmar, has been banned since 1979, and espouses the secession of Manipur from India.

The police said that on receipt of specific information about the presence of armed militants in the Kameng area in Imphal West, a team of Manipur Police, Assam Rifles, and other security forces launched a special operation on Wednesday, and were able to apprehend the suspect.

"At the spot examination, he admitted that he is a bailed-out member of PLA. He further stated that he still continues to work for PLA," the police statement said. It was found that he was directly involved in the September 19 ambush. "Examination of the arrested person is continuing and certain leads have been established. Raids are being carried out to apprehend other culprits involved in the said ambush," the police said.

INDIA bloc pledges to bring law to protect EBC in Bihar

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Leaders of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) on Wednesday released a 10-point resolution for the Extremely Backward Class (EBC), including a pledge to bring in a law for protection against atrocities on the lines of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act, if the bloc was voted to power in Bihar.

The resolution, read out by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, also proposes increasing EBC reservation in panchayat and municipal bodies from 20% to 30%, raising the overall cap to 50%, providing land to landless SC, ST, Other Backward Classes and EBC families, enforcing Article 15(5) for admission in private institutions, and 50% quota for SCs, STs, OBCs and EBCs in government contracts worth up to ₹25 crore. A high-powered regulatory authority will oversee reservations, the resolution said.

At an event titled 'Ati Pichhda Nyay Sankalp' (pledge for justice to EBC) held in Patna, Mr. Gandhi asserted that all 10 points would be implemented if the INDIA bloc came to power in the State.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Rashtriya Janata Dal's Tejashwi Yadav, Vikassheel Insan Party's Mukesh Sahni were also present at the function, which followed a meeting of the extended Congress Working Committee (CWC) in Patna.

The EBCs comprise 36% of the State's population.

"Nitish Kumar has been in power for 20 years. He could have brought in the proposed Act. He could have done all that we promise to do. But he did not,"Mr Gandhi said.

On Tuesday, *The Hindu* had reported the move of the Opposition blocs special outreach for the EBCs, long considered a strong hold of Nitish Kumar.

The CWC also adopted two resolutions highlighting Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleged "vote chori" and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "huglomacy" reportedly backfiring and leaving India "diplomatically isolated."

SC asks who is to blame for delay in Rajoana's execution

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Senior counsel of Balwant Singh Rajoana on Wednesday said his client, facing the death sentence for the assassination of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh in 1995, may be suffering from "death row phenomenon" – trauma caused by a prolonged wait for execution – even as the Supreme Court asked who exactly was to blame for the delay.

"I do not know if he is in his senses," senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi told a Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta.

Rajoana has been in prison for three decades, of which 12 were spent in solitary confinement. He has been on death row since 2007. Justice Mehta asked why the execution had not been carried out for so long. "Who is to blame for that," the judge asked.

The case had last come up early in 2025, when the top court had urged the Centre to take a call on his mercy petition. The court had said it would otherwise have no choice but to decide his petition for commutation of the death penalty on merits.

Mr. Rohatgi had referred to the court's Shatrughan Chauhan case judgment, which had recognised the death row phenomenon and the devastating impact caused by prolonged delays in execution.

Lovely Professional University will host Bharat Innovation Challenge 2025 for students

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Punjab has announced the launch of the Bharat Innovation Challenge 2025, a national initiative designed to empower students aged between 13 and 18 to create impactful, AI-powered solutions to real-world challenges. *The Hindu In School* is the Media Partner of the event.

According to a press release, the challenge is structured in two stages. The first stage will feature online submission of presentations by student teams showcasing innovative ideas across 10 categories. The last date to submit applications is September 30.

The second stage, scheduled for November 9 and 10, will bring the top 50 finalist teams to LPU's Jalandhar campus for live presentations, prototype demonstrations, and an innovation expo.

The grand finale will conclude with an awards ceremony recognising outstanding solutions across multiple categories, with the first prize of ₹3 lakh.

Rajya Sabha member and Founder-Chancellor of LPU, Ashok Kumar Mittal, said: "This global recognition is not just of LPU, but of India's rising strength in delivering education that is bold, meaningful, and globally relevant. Through the Bharat Innovation Challenge, LPU wants to place students at the heart of innovation and show how their ideas can shape a better, tech-enabled future for India."

Registrations are now open at www.lpu.in/Bharat-Innovation-Challenge

BJP has 'mentally retired' Nitish, considers him a liability: Kharge

At CWC meeting in Patna, Congress president says the Bihar polls will mark the beginning of the countdown to the end of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre; lashing out at the State government, he says it had gone on a 'long vacation'

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The BJP has "mentally retired" Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and now regards him as a "liability", Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Wednesday, in his opening remarks at the meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) held at Sadaqat Ashram, the party's Bihar headquarters in Patna.

Mr. Kharge said that the upcoming Bihar Assembly election held significance not only for the State but also for the entire country, as that would mark the countdown to the end of the "corrupt" Narendra Modi government at the Centre.

Lashing out at the State government, the Congress chief said the Bihar government was on a "long vacation".

Accompanied by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C Venugopal and other top leaders, Mr. Kharge said the country was facing serious challenges on both domestic and international fronts due to the "failure" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the domestic front and in foreign affairs.

Leadership circle: Mallikarjun Kharge with Rahul Gandhi and K.C. Venogopal during the extended Congress Working Committee meeting, in Patna on Wednesday. PTI

Without naming U.S. President Donald Trump, Mr. Kharge mocked Mr. Modi's relationship with him, saying the leader that the Prime Minister once hailed as his "close friend" had created multiple problems for India.

Seeking transparency

Turning to domestic issues, the Congress president criticised the proposed nationwide roll-out of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, calling it an attempt to disenfranchise Dalits, Adivasis, Backward and Extremely Backward Classes, minorities, and the poor. He stressed that Mr. Gandhi's "Voter Adhikar Yatra" had raised awareness in Bihar against "vote theft". He said that democracy could not work without transparency by the Election Commission.

He took a dig at the Prime Minister for "suddenly remembering" *swadeshi*, pointing out that Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress had championed the principle more than 100 years ago.

"While the PM talks about self-reliance, imports from China have doubled in the last five years," Mr. Kharge said.

He said the Modi government had realised its mistakes on GST after eight years. The Congress had been saying from Day One that there should be only two tax slabs, which Mr. Modi had now accepted, Mr. Kharge said. The Congress, he said, had insisted from the beginning on only two tax slabs, an idea the government had finally accepted. He said that "excessive GST" had enabled the Centre to collect an additional ₹23 lakh crore in the past eight years.Asserting that the people of Bihar want change, Mr. Kharge said they did not want religious polarisation but progress, employment, and control over inflation.

BJP dismisses Congress's 10-point programme for EBCs in Bihar, calls it 'sham'

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday dismissed as a "sham" the Congress's announcement of a 10-point programme targeting the Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) in Bihar ahead of the Assembly election, accusing the party of indulging in appeasement politics.

At a media briefing, BJP MP Sambit Patra alleged that the Congress had a long history of being opposed to the policy of reservation, particularly for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

Citing a 1990 speech of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Parliament, Mr. Patra said: "He spoke against the Mandal Commission recommendations brought by then-Prime Minister V.P. Singh, saying that if 27% reservation was given to OBCs, the country's situation will worsen."

The BJP MP said Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi habitually made only "empty promises".

Sambit Patra

"His father spoke against OBCs then, and now this 'nepotism kid' is speaking in favour of OBCs in an entirely different manner... These people who did not even form an OBC Commission during their rule are now making such promises," Mr. Patra added.

'Appeasement politics'

The BJP leader alleged that the Congress's appeasement politics was limited to only one religion. "Rajiv Gandhi had said, 'Don't implement OBC reservation. What about Muslim reservation?' Even today, Rahul Gandhi has spoken about Muslim reservation," Mr. Patra said.

Pointing out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recently declared in Parliament that there would be a caste census, Mr. Patra wondered why in Congress-ruled Karnataka, results of the first caste survey were not released, and why another such exercise had to be carried out.

Earlier, at another press conference, the BJP alleged that the Congress convened its Central Working Committee (CWC) meeting in Bihar after a gap of 85 years to take the "driving seat" from the Rashtriya Janata Dal and demand more ticket for the upcoming Assembly election.

"This is why they have not declared Tejashwi Yadav as their Chief Ministerial candidate so far," said former Union Minister and senior BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad.

He said the Congress, which chose to hold the meet in the State after such a long gap, should answer why it remained "silent" when people in Bihar were suffering "the reign of terror, kidnappings, loot, and corruption that defined Lalu Prasad's government".

Conspiracy angle in Delhi riots case politically motivated: activists, lawyers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Describing the conspiracy angle in the 2020 Delhi riots case as "baseless" and "politically motivated", a former judge, activists and lawyers on Wednesday said bail should be given to those languishing in jail for years without trial after being slapped with the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Student activist Umar Khalid and several others have been in jail for over five years, after they were booked in connection with the riots that broke out during the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens. The police had also alleged that some of the accused made "provocative" speeches.

Right to disagree soul of democracy, says former judge, seeks bail for those jailed without trial

Speaking at an event organised under the banner of Association for Protection of Civil Rights, Justice Iqbal Ansari who retired as Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, said the right to disagree is the soul of democracy. He added that the decision on granting bail to those accused of the alleged conspiracy should be based on the legal principle, which says that until violence doesn't happen because of someone's speech, no crime can be established against those who delivered it.

The riots 'larger conspiracy' case was registered by the Delhi police's special cell soon after the riots broke in Delhi in February 2020 leaving 53 dead.

Hearing on framing of charges in the case is ongoing in Karkardooma court.

Claiming that videos of BJP leaders Kapil Mishra, Anurag Thakur, and Pravesh Verma instigating people are available on the public domain, advocate Colin Gonsalves alleged that because they are politically connected, no action was taken. "Judiciary is not willing to find out who is behind the Delhi riots. When the case came before Muralidhar [Justice S. Muralidhar of the Delhi High Court], he ordered FIR against BJP leaders. He was transferred the same day," he said.

Nitya Ramakrishnan, another advocate, said that anything that troubled the government could become a reason for a jail term.

BJP accuses Congress of 'instigating' Leh protests, rejects Gen Z involvement

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday alleged that the Opposition Congress was behind recent protests in Leh, dismissing claims that the demonstrations were led by the "Gen Z" demographic.

BJP MP and spokesperson Sambit Patra, at a press conference at the party headquarters in New Delhi, alleged that Congress councillor Stanzin Tsepag as the "instigator" of the protests.

"Today, in Ladakh, attempts were made to portray some protests as being led by Gen Z. However, it was discovered that these were led by Congress. Congress's Stanzin Tsepag is the councillor from the Upper Leh ward. He is the main instigator, and numerous photos have surfaced of him and his workers instigating the violence. He can also be seen marching towards the BJP office with a weapon in his hand," Mr. Patra said. He added that the BJP had shared a video on its social media substantiating this claim.

The BJP office building after it was set ablaze by protesters in Leh on Wednesday. PTI

He directly blamed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, alleging collusion with Open Society founder George Soros. "Since they cannot win through the people, they are working to break the country. Rahul Gandhi is repeatedly instigating the situation in the country that has happened in Bangladesh, Nepal, and is currently unfolding in the Philippines. What kind of leadership is this for the Congress? Congress and Rahul Gandhi should listen carefully, this is Bharatvarsha, a civilisation of thousands of years... The people know what their PM is doing for them. If you try to break the country, the country knows how to respond. The people will respond," he said.

The BJP office in Leh had witnessed protests demanding implementation of the Sixth Schedule for Ladakh and Statehood. Violence erupted during the demonstrations, leaving several protestors injured.

EC launches e-sign feature for addition, deletion, and correction of voter names

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has launched a new e-sign feature on its ECINet portal and app that requires those seeking to register as voters, or applying for deletion and corrections, to verify their identity using their Aadhaar-linked phone numbers.

A senior EC official said the feature was rolled out from the second week of September.

The ECINet, a one-stop platform integrating over 40 of the EC's earlier mobile and Web applications, went live during the byelections in five Assembly constituencies in Kerala, Gujarat, Punjab and West Bengal on June 19.

Earlier, applicants could submit Forms 6, 7 and 8 meant for addition, deletion, and corrections, respectively, on the Election Commission apps and portal after connecting a phone number with an existing elector photo identity card (EPIC) number, with no verification done of whether the details were those of the specific voter.

The new e-sign feature assumes importance in view of allegations of fraudulent deletion and addition of names. BHAGYA PRAKASH

But now, after an applicant has filled the form, they are taken to an external portal hosted by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), where he or she is required to enter their Aadhaar number and then generate an "Aadhaar OTP". The OTP is sent to the phone number linked to that Aadhaar number.

The applicant has to then consent to the Aadhaar-based authentication and complete the verification. Only then is he or she redirected to the ECINet portal to submit the form.

The new e-sign feature rolled out by the commission assumes importance in view of allegations of fraudulent deletion and addition of names in some constituencies.

Recently, *The Hindu* had reported on the Karnataka CID's investigation into a systematic attempt to remove names of 5,994 voters from electoral rolls by forging Form 7 in the Aland Assembly constituency in Kalaburagi district, ahead of the 2023 Assembly election.

At a press meet on September 19, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi cited the case of Aland for deletion and Rajura in Maharashtra for fraudulent additions to the voters' list.

Polling for 4 Rajya Sabha seats in J&K on October 24

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday announced that polling for four Rajya Sabha seats of Jammu and Kashmir, which have been lying vacant since 2021, will be held on October 24.

The byelection to fill the vacancy in the Upper House created by the resignation of the Aam Aadmi Party member from Punjab, Sanjeev Arora, will also be held on that date, the panel announced.

All four seats have been lying vacant since the expiration of the term of sitting members due to "the non-availability of the required electorate to conduct the elections at the time of occurrence of the vacancies", the Election Commission said in a statement.

The retired Upper House members are Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Shamsher Singh, Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Nazir Ahmed Laway.

The last date for filing nominations is October 13. Counting of votes will take place on the evening of October 24.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Mangalagiri, Guntur District
Andhra Pradesh - 522503

[Ref. Advt. F.No./AIIMS/MG/Admin/Recruitment/03/2025/ Non-Faculty/ Deputation/01 dtd. 04.09.2025]
Advertisement for Recruitment of various Non-Faculty Group "A & B" Posts on Deputation Basis at AIIMS, Mangalagiri

AIIMS Mangalagiri invites Online applications from eligible candidates for 08 **Group A & B posts** (Medical Superintendent-01, Superintending Engineer-01, Executive Engineer (Civil)-01, Administrative Officer -01, Assistant Administrative Officer -02, Assistant Accounts Officer -02 **on Deputation Basis.** The closing date of applications will be 30 days from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment News. For more details, please visit website **www.aiimsmangalagiri.edu.in.**

Sd/
Executive Director
AIIMS, Mangalagiri

JSS Mahavidyapeetha, Mysore
JSS ACADEMY OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Dr. Vishnuvardhana Road (Uttarahalli-Kengeri Main Road) Srinivasapura, Bengaluru-60

File. No. AICTE/IDEA2024000247/2025-26 Date: 25.09.2025

QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

Sealed / online tenders are invited from **reputed and experienced suppliers, manufacturers, or authorized distributors for the supply, installation, and commissioning of equipment, tools, and consumable items** for setting up the **AICTE IDEA Lab** at our college. For the detailed equipment specifications and submission guidelines, please refer to **https://jssateb.ac.in/pview/idealab. The last date for tender submission is within 15 days from the date of this advertisement.**
Email: aicte-idea-lab@jssateb.ac.in.

Sd/- Principal

SAGARMALA
V.O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY
CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
TUTICORIN – 628 004

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

NIT No: E(C) -56/ 6 / 2025 – EST/ D. 3043 Dated:24.09.2025

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority Tuticorin is a Major Port under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India is one of the best run Ports in the Country with excellent Infrastructure such as Internal roads, Warehouses, Transit sheds, Open storage space, Truck parking facility, Power & Water Supply etc., Port is well connected to various cities in Tamil Nadu and the neighbouring states by Rail, four lane National Highways (NH-7A and NH-45B) and Airways.

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority invites Offers / Bids from the experienced reputed firms for **Allotment of Port land of 21.75 Acres for 30 years lease period on upfront / annual payment basis for the purpose such as Fabrication unit for ship building, Manufacturing of windmill blade and Electrolysis plant etc., under Coastal Employment Unit (CEU) as follows:-**

Downloading of Tender document from website	From 26.09.2025 to 16.10.2025
Last Date & Time of submission of Tender online	16.10.2025 at 15:00 Hrs.
Opening of Technical Bid online Date & Time	16.10.2025 at 15:30 Hrs.

For Further details, Please visit www.vocport.gov.in and www.tenderwizard.com / VOCPT

Sd/- 24.09.2025
CHIEF ENGINEER & ESTATE OFFICER

भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, पुणे
Indian Institute of Information Technology, Pune
(An Institute of National Importance by an Act of Parliament)
Gat No 5 & 6, PO - Nanoli-Tarf Chakan, Tah - Maval, Dist - Pune, Maharashtra - 410507

NOTICE

1. Walk-in-Interview – Teaching Post:
Indian Institute of Information Technology, Pune (IIIT Pune) invites applications from Indian Nationals for the following position on **temporary** basis:

Post : Adjunct Assistant Professor (AAP)
Department : Applied Science & Humanities
Essential Qualification: B.A (English) and M.A in English
Desirable: NET/SET cleared, NET/SET cleared Ph.D. (awarded/thesis submitted) in the relevant or equivalent discipline and shall have first class in preceding degrees.
No. of Post : 01

Date & Time: 30.09.2025 Reporting Time: 10:00 Onwards
Venue: Board Room, IIIT Pune, Talegaon Campus, Pune – 410507

2. Engagement of Non-Teaching Staff (Through Outsourced Agency):
Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for the following **contractual non-teaching positions** through an outsourced agency:

Sl. No.	Position	Consolidated Remuneration (₹/month)	No. of Post
1	Supervisor (Electrical)	45,000/-	01
2	Supervisor (Civil)	45,000/-	01
3	Office Assistant (Rajbhasha)	25,000/-	01
4	Receptionist	25,000/-	01
5	Network Engineer	40,000/-	01

General Information (For All Posts):
- All engagements are purely temporary and contractual, extendable based on performance and the Institute's requirements.
- The number of posts may vary as per Institutional requirements.
- Candidates must bring original certificates, one set of photocopies, and a recent passport-size photograph (for Walk-in-Interview).
- Date & time for Interview may kindly visit the Institute's website. Please visit Institute's website regularly for details/updates: https://www.iiitp.ac.in/careers

3. Notice Inviting Tender (NIT):
On behalf of the Director, IIIT Pune, sealed bids are invited from eligible bidders for the following Tenders:
1. Construction of 6 Nos. Watch Towers along IIIT Pune Campus Boundary
2. Construction of Shopping Complex at IIIT Pune Campus
3. Empanelment of Vendors for Supply of Books for the IIIT Pune Library

- Tender documents, including technical specifications, eligibility criteria, important dates, etc., are available at: www.iiitp.ac.in.
- Bids must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes (each for Technical and Financial Bids) duly super-scribed with the respective tender name.
- Any corrigendum/addendum shall be uploaded only on the Institute's website.

SD/-
REGISTRAR

INBRIEF

Mamata grants ₹2 lakh to kin of each electrocution victim

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh to the next of kin of those who died from electrocution following torrential rain on Tuesday morning. She urged the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) to provide ₹5 lakh in compensation. "For those who tragically lost their lives due to electrocution yesterday, the State govt. will provide ₹2 lakh to their families. We will also ensure that employment is provided to the next of kin, even if CESC fails to do so," the Chief Minister said while inaugurating Durga Puja pandals in Kolkata. Nine people, including eight in Kolkata, died from electrocution on Tuesday.

Centre extends General Anil Chauhan's tenure as CDS

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Wednesday approved the extension of service of General Anil Chauhan as Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). He shall also continue to function as Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Military Affairs, up to May 30, 2026, or until further orders. General Chauhan was appointed CDS on September 28, 2022. Commissioned into the Indian Army in 1981, he has had a distinguished career, holding several key command and staff appointments. For his exemplary service, General Chauhan has been decorated with the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Sena Medal, and Vishisht Seva Medal.

Centre clears scheme to add medical seats across country

5,000 postgraduate and 5,023 undergraduate medical seats to be added; existing medical colleges, standalone postgraduate institutes, and hospitals run by the governments will be upgraded

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved Phase 3 of a Centrally sponsored scheme that will add 5,000 postgraduate and 5,023 undergraduate medical seats in the country by 2028-29.

Under the scheme, existing medical colleges, standalone postgraduate institutes, and hospitals run by the Union and the State governments will be strengthened and upgraded at an enhanced cost ceiling of ₹1.5 crore a seat.

The Union government said the initiative would significantly augment the number of MBBS seats and availability of specialist doctors by creating additional postgraduate seats, and enable introduction of new specialties across government medical institutions.

"This will strengthen the overall availability of doctors in the country," the Health Ministry said in a press release.

The total financial implications of these two schemes is ₹15,034.5 crore from 2025-26 to 2028-29. The Central share is ₹10,303.20 crore and the States' ₹4,731.30 crore.

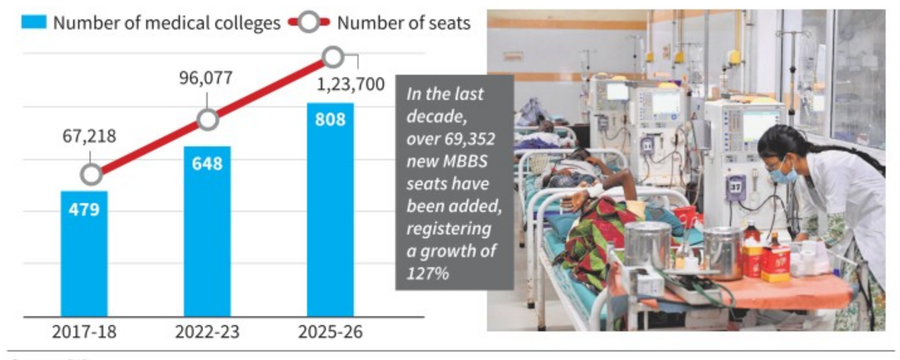
"The target of these schemes is to increase 5,000 PG seats and 5,023 UG seats in government institutions by 2028-2029," the Ministry added.

Detailed guidelines will be issued by the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry for implementation of the schemes. Currently, India has 808 medical colleges with 1,23,700 MBBS seats.

Over the past decade, 69,352 MBBS seats have been added, a growth of 127%. Similarly, a total of 43,041 postgraduate seats have been added, a 143% rise.

"Despite the addition, certain regions in India still need to enhance capacities to match the demand, access and affordability of healthcare," the Ministry said. Further, there are 22 All India Institutes of Medical Sciences approved under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.

"Apart from providing tertiary healthcare services, they also play an important role in building a pool of health professionals with highest standards of medical competence with their latest teaching learning facilities," the Ministry said.



A more inclusive and competency-based Qualifications of Faculty Regulation issued, says Ministry

Faculty eligibility

The New Medical Institution (Qualifications of Faculty) Regulations 2025 have been issued by adopting a more inclusive and competency-based approach to faculty eligibility and recruitment. These changes aim to address the growing requirement of teaching personnel and meeting the academic and professional standards, it added.

Simultaneous polls committee meets Montek, Panagariya

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Economists present differing views before the panel on benefits of holding simultaneous polls

The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) reviewing the legislation on simultaneous elections on Wednesday met three economists – Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Arvind Panagariya, and Surjit S. Bhalla – who presented two contrasting views on the issue.

Mr. Ahluwalia, former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, rejected the claim that simultaneous elections would lead to economic growth. Mr. Panagariya and Mr. Bhalla, on the other hand, argued in favour of it. A report by the High-Level Committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind has said the synchronised election cycle projected a 1.5% increase in GDP.

The JPC is headed by Bharatiya Janata Party MP P.P. Chaudhary.

Mr. Ahluwalia said the election expenditure would remain unaffected whether polls were held simultaneously or not, sources said. There was no evidence to point at a bump in GDP. There was no hard data backing this claim, Mr. Ahluwalia told the panel. "He argued that economic growth and the election cycle have no clear-cut connection," a member of the panel said on condition of anonymity.

Earlier in the day, speaking in favour of the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, Mr. Panagariya, who chairs the 16th Finance Commission, contended that there was "large academic evidence" that government spending rose before elections, leading to a higher fiscal deficit.

Government expenditure in this period moves away from capital expenditure to revenue expenditure, pointing to deterioration in the quality of expenditure, Mr. Panagariya said. To back his points, he said the Finance Commission was impacted by the 2024 Lok Sabha election and the following Assembly elections, resulting in delays in its consultation process. Mr. Panagriya, sources said, contended that not holding elections simultaneously was an impediment to structural reforms.

7th edition of businessline Changemaker Awards to be held in Mumbai tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The seventh edition of businessline Changemaker Awards will be held on Friday.

The chief guest for the event, to be held in Mumbai, is Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas.

A total of 1,807 nominations were received across five categories – Changemaker of the Year, Young Changemaker, Changemaker - Digital Transformation, Changemaker - Social Transformation, and Changemaker – Financial Transformation.

For the sixth category, Iconic Changemaker, nominees were chosen by the *businessline* team and knowledge partners, Deloitte and Ashoka Innovators for the Public, after a thorough discussion.

In addition, *businessline's* Chairperson's Award goes to an entity that is carrying on exemplary work in education.

The nominees were vetted by the *businessline's* validation partner, Niiti Consulting.

The winners in each category were selected by an eminent jury at a meeting held in Chennai. The jury this year was chaired by D. Subbarao, former Governor of RBI.

The other jury members were Harish Bhat, former Brand Custodian, Tata Sons; A. Balasubramanian, MD & CEO, Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund AMC; Lakshmi Venu, Vice-Chairman, TAFE; N.S. Nappinai, senior advocate, Supreme Court; Chetna Gala Sinha, Chairperson, Mann Deshi Mahila Bank; and J. Radhakrishnan, Chairman & MD, Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution Corporation.

The event can be watched live by scanning the QR code or on: https://thbl.news/BLCM2025LS

'NIRF ranking system has to be objective, transparent and open'

Nistula Hebbar
A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has said that the National Institutional Ranking Framework's (NIRF) ranking system has to be objective, transparent, and open.

Addressing *The Hindu Mind* on Monday, he said the Union government was giving NIRF and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) institutions utmost autonomy. "But they have to function transparently. Democracy thrives in an accountable society. No institution is sacrosanct. They are autonomous, but they have to improve in their governance," he said.

Asked about his recent criticism of certain parameters of the NIRF, such as the perception criteria, Mr. Pradhan said the government was the custodian of students and society. "I have to put forth the societal expectation in front of these independent and autonomous bodies. They have to reform themselves, and they are reforming," he said. "These [institutions] all are doing good things. Before 2014, there was no Indian ranking system. It was Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi who envisioned a national ranking system," Mr. Pradhan said, adding that making a viewpoint was not expressing dissatisfaction. "It is an indication for improvement. It is a governance issue," the Minister said.

On British company Quacquarelli Symonds's global education institutions ranking, Mr. Pradhan said there was a quantum jump for Indian institutions. Commenting on the controversies over visa restrictions on Indians in the United States, he said India was not dependent upon any foreign institution. "We have to cope with the changing geopolitical situations," he said.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan speaking at *The Hindu* MIND Series in New Delhi on Monday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Board exams for Class 10, 12 from Feb. 17, says CBSE

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will conduct Class 10 and 12 Board exams from February 17, 2026, officials announced on Wednesday.

The Board announced a tentative date sheet for the crucial exams. This is the first time that Board exams for Class 10 will be conducted twice in an academic session.

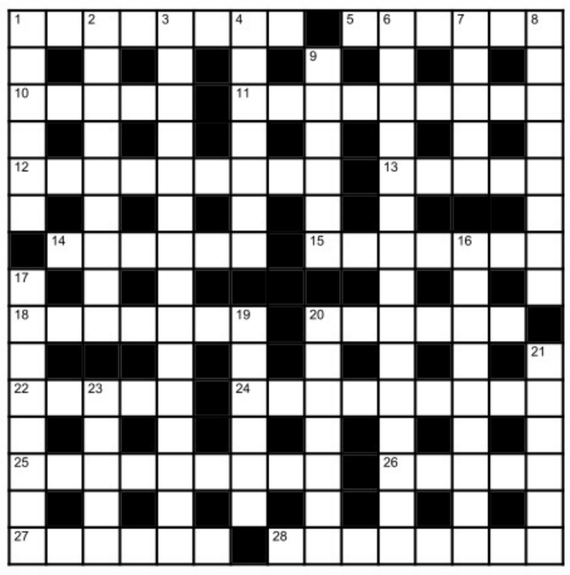
"While the first edition will be conducted from February 17 to March 6, 2026, the second edition is scheduled from May 15 to June 1," CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said. Around 45 lakh students are expected to appear in 204 subjects across Class 10 and 12 from India and 26 countries abroad.

TH CROSSWORD + 14598

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Praises a college student receiving hundred marks (8)
5 Girl captivated by zebra wandering in capital city (6)
10 Marvellous flatfish (5)
11 Report citizen stealing a Rolls-Royce (9)
12 Democrat screening Republican party's chicanery (9)
13 Anxiety caused by a national goods and services tax (5)
14 Container filled with a new nitrogen compound (6)
15 Unreasonable male cutting old conifer (7)
18 Exciting scoop about Hyderabad's captain chasing model after the event (4,3)
20 Investigate unionist breaking contract (6)
22 Mammoth reward inspires cast (5)
24 Cool, without any frills (9)
25 Requiring nourishment, extremely unwell after onset of epidemic (9)
26 Dame erotically cuddling Muslim prince (5)
27 Still extremely sheepish, about to propose (6)
28 Died after developing tetanus? Not explicitly declared (8)

Down

1 Sunrise song a beau composed to entertain date (6)
2 Talks with bowlers perhaps after CSK's top batter gets century (9)
3 Frolicking in the raw, sots consuming drink get a mild punishment (1,4,2,3,5)
4 Intimate in no time, dancing close to maiden (7)
6 American runner in tears, devastated by bad performance actually (2,1,6,2,4)
7 Regretting failure, ultimately depressing (5)
8 Break-danced bare with ultimately hot woman (8)
9 Rim of iron around hoop (6)
16 Vivacious belle in fancy bar outside university (9)
17 Son having no marijuana, becoming clean (8)
19 Relative in company, working endlessly (6)
20 Substance producing fever in children, mostly around end of July (7)
21 Enjoyed a wine after work (6)
23 Old-fashioned resort, sadly lacking latest of amenities (5)

SUDOKU

3			2			7		
	1	7			8			3
					1		4	
6	3		1					
	8		4		3		6	
					2		1	9
	7		8					
2			7			8	3	
		4			9			2

No.SS6652 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

T	H	L	G	I	P	I		
P	H	R	A	S	E	O	R	C
H	A	R	D	S	I	W	A	O
E	R	A	R	A	N	G	E	D
B	E	T	R	A	Y	T	I	U
B	E	I	L	D	E	L	I	V
E	R	Y	R	E	C	E	S	S
E	G	L	E	I	N	I	T	I
A	L	A	S	P	E	C	T	S
R	P	I	H	A	S	L	E	E
P	N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R
O	A	E	F	A	A	A	R	U
S	S	I	A	A	P	P	O	I
N	T	S	G	U	L	N	O	N
R	S	H	O	R	T	E	S	T
U	G	L	I	E	R	T	E	D
S	R	Y	S					

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	4	2	8	5	6	7	9	3
8	7	3	9	1	4	2	5	6
5	9	6	7	2	3	4	1	8
4	2	1	6	7	5	3	8	9
9	3	5	1	8	2	6	7	4
7	6	8	3	4	9	5	2	1
2	5	9	4	3	1	8	6	7
3	1	7	2	6	8	9	4	5
6	8	4	5	9	7	1	3	2

FAITH

Enduring values of dharma

The Ramayana and the Mahabharata are more than tales of kings and battles. They help us understand the more profound truths of life and show us how to live rightly. Lord Rama followed dharma at every step, always choosing truth, duty, and compassion. His example reminds us that living with integrity matters just as much as performing religious rituals.

The Mahabharata illustrates how individuals grapple with weakness and the ongoing struggle between good and evil. Yudhishthira, renowned for his honesty and commitment to dharma, was drawn into the game of dice due to his sense of duty and a desire for challenge. After losing everything – his kingdom, his brothers, and even his wife – the blind king Dhritarashtra gave it all back. Still, Duryodana's anger grew, and Sakuni's cleverness led to another round of deceit. This reminds us that greed, anger, and manipulation can cause even wise people to suffer, and that our desires and emotions always test dharma.

Sri Anantha Padmanabha Swamy said in a discourse that when Yudhishthira was exiled to the forest, he lamented that he was destined for misfortune. Sages in the forest consoled him by recalling how Rama, though set for coronation, was sent to the forest and suffered greatly, and how Nala and Damayanti also endured hardships. In times of difficulty, one should not sink into sorrow by dwelling on the problems, but instead focus on finding solutions to overcome the crisis. When we choose truth over falsehood, patience over anger, and compassion over selfishness, dharma begins to shine naturally through us, as it did in the lives of Rama and Yudhishthira.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,716	-0.47
US Dollar	88.75	-0.02
Gold	1,18,000	-0.75
Brent oil	68.93	1.83

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2619.80	-56.60
Adani Ports	1431.60	-10.00
Apollo Hosp	7643.50	-40.50
Asian Paints	2457.20	10.30
Axis Bank	1158.90	-11.90
Bajaj Auto	8839.00	-145.50
Bajaj Finserv	2069.20	-15.20
Bajaj Finance	1029.75	4.25
Bharat Elec	395.45	-9.00
Bharti Airtel	1931.10	-7.60
Cipla	1538.00	10.90
Coal India	392.85	-1.20
Dr Reddys Lab	1298.10	-10.30
Eicher Motors	7011.50	21.00
Eternal Ltd.	335.80	-2.55
Grasim Ind	2807.40	-6.10
HCL Tech	1442.30	12.50
HDFC Bank	951.05	-6.15
HDFC Life	770.25	-4.80
Hero MotoCorp	5277.00	-93.50
Hindalco	741.05	-4.85
Hind Unilever	2549.50	27.30
ICICI Bank	1382.70	-11.60
IndusInd Bank	740.75	-14.50
Infosys	1494.60	-2.90
ITC	401.00	-2.20
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	306.75	-5.80
JSW Steel	1149.10	10.70
Kotak Bank	2031.30	-16.40
L&T	3673.80	16.20
M&M	3574.90	-39.70
Maruti Suzuki	16249.00	152.00
NestleIndia	1178.60	10.20
NTPC	347.60	4.60
ONGC	238.52	1.86
PowerGrid Corp	293.30	4.70
Reliance Ind	1383.00	-6.80
SBI Life	1817.10	-2.30
State Bank	866.20	-4.40
Shriram Finance Ltd.	625.15	-3.65
Sun Pharma	1627.10	-4.10
TataConsumerProduct	1140.10	11.60
Tata Motors	682.95	-18.40
Tata Steel	172.66	-0.63
TCS	3035.40	-27.00
Tech Mahindra	1452.40	-19.50
Titan	3418.30	-20.90
Trent Ltd.	4897.00	6.00
UltraTech Cement	12214.00	-187.00
Wipro	244.59	-5.04

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 24

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	88.54	88.85
Euro	104.21	104.59
British Pound	119.43	119.87
Japanese Yen (100)	59.74	59.96
Chinese Yuan	12.44	12.49
Swiss Franc	111.34	111.75
Singapore Dollar	68.77	69.03
Canadian Dollar	63.80	64.05
Malaysian Ringitt	21.02	21.12
Australian Dollar	58.47	58.68

Source:Indian Bank

No takers yet for EV localisation scheme

No applications received for the govt.'s ₹4,150 crore investment-linked import concession programme for e-cars to boost local manufacturing

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Three months after the Centre announced a scheme offering duty concessions on imported electric cars in exchange for commitments to local manufacturing, primarily aimed at wooing Tesla, no automaker has expressed interest.

"No one has come," a senior government official seeking anonymity said to a question on how many auto players had evinced interest.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries launched a portal on June 24 for accepting applications under the Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMEPCI). The last day to apply for the scheme is October 21, 2025.

Officials said that auto makers were waiting for important foreign trade agreements (FTAs) such as those with the U.S. and European Union to conclude, in case those agreements offered attractive concessions.

They cited the FTA with the U.K. as an example, wherein import duties on U.K.-built vehicles, including electric and conventional cars, are cut from over 100% to about 10%, but only for a limited number of vehicles under an annual quota.

While a representative from Tesla attended only the first meeting of stakeholders held last year after the draft guidelines were issued, "there has been no communication" since, between the auto giant and the government, officials said.

To a question on whether the government would tweak the scheme to make it more attractive, officials said there were no demands made from auto companies seeking changes to the policy.

On mute: There has been no communication between Tesla and the Centre after the first stakeholders' meeting last year. AFP

India-U.S. to increase energy trade in coming years, says Goyal

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India expects to increase its energy trade with the U.S. in the coming years, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday, adding that India's energy security would have a "high element" of U.S. involvement going ahead.

Speaking at an event organised by the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) in New York, Mr. Goyal also said that the two countries would be working closely on nuclear power.

The Commerce Minister is in the U.S. to take forward talks on a bilateral trade agreement between India and the U.S.

"India is a big player in the energy trade," Mr. Goyal said. "We are big importers of energy from across the world, including from the U.S. We expect to increase our trade with the U.S. on energy products in the years to come."

Piyush Goyal

"And, being close friends and natural partners, our energy security goals will have a very high element of U.S. involvement, which will ensure price stability, diversified sources of energy for India, and help us unlock limitless possibilities with the U.S. on various fronts – energy and beyond," he added.

This comes at a time when the U.S. has imposed a 25% additional tariff on Indian imports as a "penalty" for importing Russian oil. U.S. President Donald Trump has previously talked about how he wants India to instead buy American oil.

INBRIEF

Finance Minister launches GST Appellate Tribunal

Justice regarding disputes pertaining to the GST will now not only be fair and fast, but also transparent and accessible to all, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, launching the GST Appellate Tribunal on Wednesday. The GST Council, during its 56th meeting on September 3, had decided that the GSTAT would be made operational for accepting appeals before the end of September and would begin hearings before December end this year.

Qatar enables UPI, Qatar Duty Free becomes first merchant

NPCI International Payments Ltd., in partnership with Qatar National Bank, has enabled the acceptance of QR code-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) across Qatar via point-of-sale terminals for merchants acquired by QNB and powered by NETSTARS' payment solution. This move will enable Indian travellers to make UPI payments seamlessly at major tourist attractions and Qatar Duty Free outlets, which is the first merchant to go live on UPI, NPCI said. PTI

ONGC eyes acquisition of 2.5-3 GW RE projects by 2030

India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) hopes to acquire 2.5-3 gigawatt renewable energy projects by 2030, Executive Director Satyan Kumar said on Wednesday. The company already has about 2.5 GW of renewable energy capacity, Mr. Kumar told reporters. ONGC is looking to import 3 million tonnes per year of liquefied natural gas under long-term deals and expects some contracts to be finalised in 12 months, Mr. Kumar added. REUTERS

PhonePe files for confidential IPO

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Walmart-backed payments aggregator PhonePe has filed for a confidential IPO, a company spokesperson said on Wednesday.

PhonePe is among the many companies such as Swiggy and Boat that have filed confidential IPOs. This means their IPO document is not made public. Firms resort to this method to protect information and business plans they feel are sensitive.

Gem and jewellery sector seeks urgent relief as U.S. tariff hits hard

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) has sought urgent relief measures from the Centre for the sector, which, according to it, has been severely impacted by the recent 50% tariff imposed by the U.S.

The GJEPC top brass, led by chairman Kirit Bhansali, along with vice chairman Shaunak Parikh and executive director Sabyasachi Ray on Wednesday met Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi to seek financial relief.

The Finance Minister gave a patient hearing to the industry's requests and assured full support to the sector, emphasising the government's commitment," GJEPC said.

Dr. Reddy's, Hetero to supply Gilead's HIV drug at $40

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad-based drugmakers Dr. Reddy's Laboratories and Hetero Labs signed separate agreements that will make their generic version of Gilead Sciences' HIV prevention drug Lenacapavir available at $40 a year in 120 low- and middle-income countries beginning 2027.

Injectable Lenacapavir will be available at $40 a year in these countries under a new partnership between Dr. Reddy's and Unitaid, the Clinton Health Access Initiative and research institute Wits RHI.

Separately, the Gates Foundation and Hetero Labs announced a pact under which the company will make generic lenacapavir at roughly $40 per patient per year (after a short pre-treatment oral regimen). The price point is designed to make the breakthrough treatment affordable for national health systems, the Foundation said.

A vial of Gilead Sciences's Yeztugo, (lenacapvir). AP

₹70,000 cr. maritime, shipbuilding package gets Cabinet nod

Shishir Sinha
NEW DELHI

The move is likely to create 30 lakh jobs, attract ₹4.5 lakh-cr. investments into the maritime sector

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved about a ₹70,000 crore package for the shipbuilding and maritime sector.

"The Cabinet approved a package to rejuvenate India's shipbuilding and maritime sector. This historic move will unlock 4.5 million gross tonnage capacity, generate jobs, and attract investments," PM Narendra Modi had said.

According to a government statement, the package comprises a four-pillar approach designed to strengthen domestic capacity, improve long-term financing, promote greenfield and brownfield shipyard development, enhance technical capabilities and skilling, and implementation of legal, taxation and policy reforms to create a robust maritime infrastructure.

"A National Shipbuilding Mission will also be established," the government said in the statement.

The move is expected to create almost 30 lakh jobs and attract investments of about ₹4.5 lakh crore into the maritime sector.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

GAIL to expand LPG pipeline at ₹5,364-crore

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

State-owned GAIL (India) Board has approved ₹5,363.88 crore Jamnagar-Loni liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) pipeline capacity expansion project.

The capacity is set to be raised from existing 3.25 MMTPA to 6.5 MMTPA, GAIL said in a filing.

The investment for the project would be raised through a combination of debt and equity.

In another decision, the board approved a revision in the schedule of the 1,702 km Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda natural gas pipeline project from September 30 to December 31.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : **SE/PHC/MPM/20/2025-26**
Jala Jeevan Mission-Malappuram District -Karulai, Amarambalam, Moothedam, Chokkad, pts -construction of Sump/GLSR,OHSR, CWPM, RWPM, distribution of transformer, pumpsets, laying pipeline, road restoration in various areas and allied works.
EMD : **Rs. 500000**, Tender fee : **Rs. 16540**
Last Date for submitting Tender : **15-10-2025 03:00:pm**, Phone : **04832974871**
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Malappuram
KWA-JB-GL-6-372-2025-26

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd.,JAIPUR.
No. NIT/2025-26/20304-17 **निविदा सूचना/2025–26** Date:23.09.2025
निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों एवं उनके अधिकृत संगठनों में पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है

कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की धरोहर राशि (रू०)	निविदा शुल्क राशि
Construction of CTO Building (LHS Part) under Construction of Mini Secretariat at Sri Ganganagar. **UBN: RRC2526WSOB00683**	363.35 Lakh	अल्पकालीन ई–362/25–26
Additional work of New Hospital at Jaisalmer. **UBN: RRC2526WLOB00681**	1258.31 Lakh	अल्पकालीन ई–365/25–26
SITC of VRF Air Conditioning work for Phase-II, Medical College & Upgradation of Hospital at Karauli. **UBN: RRC2526WSOB00682**	218.28 Lakh	ई–371/25–26

निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र में निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, ऑनलाईन करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाईट: **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in** तथा **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc** पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।
महाप्रबंधक

सीएमपीडीआई मिनी रत्न **cmpdi** Mini Ratna
सेन्ट्रल माईन प्लानिंग एण्ड डिजाईन इन्स्टीच्यूट लिमिटेड
CENTRAL MINE PLANNING AND DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi - 834008, Jharkhand, India

NOTICE
"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in**/respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal **https://gem.gov.in.**"

TOBACCO BOARD
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)
G.T.Road, GUNTUR-522004. Phone : 0863-2358399, Email:info@tobaccoboard.co.in
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Tobacco Board invites proposals for the **Selection of a Service Provider for the Implementation of the e-Auction V2 system of the Tobacco Board.** For full details and download the relevant documents, visit **https://www.tobaccoboard.com** or **https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app** or **https://www.nisg.org.**
Sd/- Secretary I/C

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
Brief E- TENDER NOTICE:: CORRIGENDUM-I (SALE EXTENSION)
No: e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/CON/258715-(I) Dt: 23.09.2025
Refer to Tender No CMG/C/CON/258715 dated 09.09.2025 Name of work: **"Balance works for Package - D: Construction of LOSF storage bay for C32 main building etc., for SLP Augmentation, SDSC SHAR"** (Est cost **Rs 249 Lakhs**).
Sale period extended up to 06.10.2025
Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.
Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता जल संसाधन (उत्तर) हनुमानगढ़
नजदीक तिलक सर्किल, हनुमानगढ जवशंन–335512
फोन नं. 01552–260607 ई–मेलआईडी–cewrdhmh@gmail.com
Notice Inviting Bid
(NIB Code WRN2526A0092)
Bids for 01 No of Work as shown in the below table invited from prospective bidders up to 14.10.2025 time 6.00 PM.

S.No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs.)	UBN No.
1	Reconstruction of water course IGMN stage-Ist of ZWM, SPD, HLM, KLM, ZWD, KBM, BHM, LBM, BRP, FM, NM, DO of SOG From RD 0 to 152 Division Suratgarh in District Hanumangarh (P-6)	785751671.00	WRN2526WLOB00273

Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, of the state and www.water.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website.
(Pradeep Rustagi)
Chief Engineer
Water Resources(North)
Hanumangarh
DIPR/C/13776/2025 RajKaj Ref No.: 17756159

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
BANGALORE-560 012
IISc/CCMD/Tenders/2025-26 Date: 22.09.2025
Tender Notification- IISc/Tender-CIV-12/2025-26
Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform **https://eprocure.gov.in.** Any specialized firms company registered under KPWD /CPWD/ railways/ MES/ central PSUs/ or any Government department of **Class I/Class A Civil Contractors** are eligible to apply for the work of **"The work of Sheltered including MS Frame Structure and Puff Sheet at Terrace floor CSA department IISc"** Estimated Cost of Project is **Rs.39,99,435.00/-.** Last date of receipt of application is **13th Oct 2025 at 1530Hrs.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail **office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in**
REGISTRAR

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त करौली
क्रमांक: 2864-71 दिनांक : 16/09/2025
निविदा सूचना संख्या: 04/2025-26
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से जिला करौली में बजट घोषणा 2025-26 के अन्तर्गत (नॉन पेचेबल/अटल पथ/RR) विभिन्न योजनान्तर्गत सड़कों के निर्माण कार्यों के लिए (दोष निवारण अवधि 5 वर्ष सहित) के लिये उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विगाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
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Name of Work	NIB No.	UBN No.
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Growth outlook for H2 is one of optimism: RBI Bulletin

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Irrespective of the headwinds caused to the domestic macro-outlook by the imposition of high U.S. import tariff, the growth outlook for H2 is one of optimism, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials wrote in the September edition of the RBI Bulletin.

"While the imposition of high U.S. import tariff brought in some headwinds to the domestic macro-outlook, the developments since then have underscored the resilience of the economy," they wrote in the article titled State of the Economy.

Higher kharif sowing would keep food prices under check.

Stating the recent S&P sovereign rating upgrade was an acknowledgment of the economy's strong macro-fundamentals, they said the Q1:2025-26 GDP estimates reinforced the resilience of domestic growth drivers.

"High frequency indicators for August show manufacturing and services activity at a decadal high. In this scenario, the growth outlook for H2 is one of optimism," they emphasised.

"The landmark GST reforms should progressively result in a sustained positive impact through significant gains in ease of doing business, lower retail prices and strengthening of consumption growth drivers, the officials stated.

According to them, higher kharif sowing would translate into sustained growth momentum in the agriculture sector, while also keeping food prices under check.

Glenmark, Hengrui sign cancer-drug agreement

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals has entered into an exclusive agreement with Hengrui Pharma for Trastuzumab Rezetecan (SHR-A1811), a next-generation HER2-targeting antibody drug conjugate.

Under the pact, Glenmark will have exclusive rights to develop and commercialise the drug in many countries and pay $18 million upfront. Hengrui is eligible to receive regulatory and commercial milestone payments of up to $1.093 billion.

LONDON

U.K. police arrest man following cyberattack at European airports

AFP

The U.K. police said on Wednesday a man in his 40s had been arrested after a cyberattack disrupted major European airports including Brussels, Berlin and London's Heathrow. The suspect had been released on conditional bail after officers detained him late Tuesday in West Sussex, southeast England. AFP

JERUSALEM

Yemen drone attack injures 22 in Israeli resort town: Army, rescuers

AP

Israel's military said a drone launched from Yemen struck the southern resort town of Eilat on Wednesday, with rescuers reporting nearly two dozen wounded. A military statement said the drone "fell in the area of Eilat" on the Red Sea coast after air defences had failed to intercept it, in the second such incident within days. AFP

HOLLYWOOD

U.S. comedian Jimmy Kimmel calls threats by Trump 'anti-American'

AFP

TV host Jimmy Kimmel defended free speech on his return to U.S. screens on Tuesday, calling government pressure on his late-night talk show "anti-American" as critics decried his suspension as an attack on constitutional rights. "Our government cannot be allowed to control what we do and do not say on television," he said. AFP

NEW YORK

Iran will never seek nuclear weapons, President tells UN

AFP

Iran's President said that his country is not seeking nuclear weapons, after military strikes by Israel and the U.S. earlier this year, and impending sanctions triggered by European powers. "I hereby declare once more that Iran will never seek to build a nuclear bomb," Masoud Pezeshkian told the UN General Assembly. AFP

India is mostly with us: Zelenskyy

'We had this question with energy, but I think President Trump can manage it,' says the Ukrainian leader, adding that EU nations should build a closer relationship with India; Europe says it is in the process of cutting energy imports from Russia

Sriram Lakshman

Saying that India is mostly on Ukraine's side in its war with Russia, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has urged western countries to continue engaging with India. His comments were made to *Fox News* in an interview in New York on Tuesday, where Mr. Zelenskyy is attending the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

"I think India is mostly with us," he said. "We had this question with energy, but I think President Trump can manage it," he added, urging European nations to build a closer relationship with India.

Timely ties: Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he was sure that India would change its attitude towards the Russian energy sector. AP

India's attitude

Mr. Zelenskyy said everything had to be done to ensure that the Indians do not withdraw, adding that he was sure India would change its attitude to the Russian energy sector.

"With China, it's more difficult," he said, adding that it was not in Beijing's interest to not support Russia.

Finnish President Alexander Stubb also expressed similar sentiments. In an interview with *Bloomberg TV* that aired on Tuesday, Mr. Stubb pushed back against the clubbing together of India, Russia, and China, calling India a "very close ally" of the EU and the U.S., and noting that it was an "emerging superpower". Mr. Stubb urged western nations to engage closely with India as well.

On Tuesday, Mr. Trump had also put out a social media post indicating that his assessment of the Russia-Ukraine war had changed, as he expressed qualified optimism about Ukraine's prospects of winning the conflict.

Ukraine could fight and win all of the country back "in its original form" in due course, if Kyiv had help from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and European nations, Mr. Trump had said, ahead of a Tuesday meeting with Mr. Zelenskyy.

The positions of the U.S. and Ukrainian teams are closer than any time previously, Mr. Zelenskyy said, during the *Fox News* interview. The Ukrainian leader was interviewed on the same show under very different circumstances in February this year, after a meeting at the Oval Office – with Mr. Trump, U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance, and others – went off the rails.

'Better ties'

"I think we have better relations than before," Mr. Zelenskyy said of his ties with Mr. Trump, adding that Russian President Vladimir Putin "lying" to Mr. Trump on multiple occasions had also helped the relationship.

In recent weeks, Mr. Trump has expressed his disappointment with Mr. Putin, whom he had hosted for bilateral talks in Anchorage, Alaska, on August 15. On Tuesday, he said their relationship did not mean anything to Mr. Putin.

Asked if he was surprised by Mr. Trump changing his assessment of the situation, Mr. Zelenskyy said: "A little bit." He added that these were "very positive signals" that Mr. Trump and America would support Ukraine until the conclusion of the war.

Apart from imposing a punitive 25% tariff on Indian goods (which already face a 25% 'reciprocal tariff') for its oil and arms trade with Russia, Mr. Trump has, in recent days, stepped up the pressure on Europe to end all trade in oil and LNG with Russia.

EU's stance

During remarks to the press ahead of her meeting with the U.S. President, European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen said Europe was in the process of reducing its energy products from Russia through sanctions on ports receiving LNG. She added: "We want to put tariffs on oil supplies that are still coming to the European Union."

Until now, the EU has suggested it is focussed on its traditional approach to controlling such trade – sanctions – rather than penalty tariffs.

Ukraine is in a position to fight and win, says Trump

Associated Press
UNITED NATIONS

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that he believed Ukraine could win back all territory lost to Russia, a dramatic shift from the U.S. leader's repeated calls for Kyiv to make concessions to end the war.

Mr. Trump posted on social media soon after meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly gathering of world leaders.

"I think Ukraine, with the support of the European Union, is in a position to fight and WIN all of Ukraine back," Mr. Trump wrote. "With time, patience, and the financial support of Europe and, in particular, NATO, the original Borders from where this War started, is very much an option."

Donald Trump

The support from Mr. Trump, if it sticks, is a huge win for Mr. Zelenskyy, who has urged the American President to keep up the pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin to end his war. It was a departure from Mr. Trump's previous suggestions that Ukraine would never be able to reclaim all the territory that Russia has occupied since seizing the Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

Russian response

Meanwhile, the Kremlin said on Wednesday it had no choice but to continue its military offensive on Ukraine and rejected U.S. President Donald Trump's claim that Russia was a "paper tiger". "We are continuing our special military operation to ensure our interests and achieve the goals" set by Putin, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, using Moscow's term for its assault on Ukraine.

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Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@gmail.com, eepc@mahatransco.in, eetkc1cpa@mahatransco.in
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At least 15 killed in Israeli strikes as troops target homes in Gaza

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Israeli forces killed at least 15 Palestinians on Wednesday as they bombarded targets including homes and tents in Gaza, the territory's civil defence spokesperson said.

Israel has launched a major air and ground offensive on Gaza City, forcing hundreds of thousands to flee. Some of those who remained were sheltering in the city centre when air strikes hit them, civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said. "At least seven deaths, most of them children, and a large number of injuries as a result of three air strikes on a Gaza Municipality warehouse and tents for the displaced in Firas Market," he said.

A woman cooks on a makeshift stove as Palestinians displaced by the conflict go on with their lives in Khan Younis on Wednesday. AFP

Three other persons were killed by Israeli bombardment elsewhere in the city; two in an apartment on Al-Sahaba Street and one in the area of Al-Yarmouk Market. In central Gaza, the civil defence reported "four dead and injuries in a helicopter strike" on a home in Nuseirat.

Two killed , 1 injured in shooting at U.S. immigration facility

Agence France-Presse
HOUSTON

Two persons were killed and one injured in a shooting on Wednesday at a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility in the U.S. city of Dallas, officials said.

The suspected gunman, who opened fire on the ICE facility from an adjacent building, is dead, the Dallas police department said in a post on X.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said the shooter died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. "While we don't know the motive yet, we know that our ICE law enforcement is facing unprecedented violence against them," Ms. Noem said on X. "It must stop."

The three persons who were shot were detainees in the custody of the ICE officials

Local television station Fox4 said the three persons shot were detainees in ICE custody. It said the gunman was a man on the roof of a building who shot himself as law enforcement agents approached.

Officials said no ICE officers were injured in the attack.

Typhoon Ragasa makes landfall in southern China

Agence France-Presse
YANGJIANG

Typhoon Ragasa made landfall in southern China on Wednesday, after battering Hong Kong and killing at least 15 in Taiwan.

"Ragasa made landfall along the coast of Hailing Island, Yangjiang City, Guangdong Province around 5 p.m. (0900 GMT) on September 24," the National Meteorological Centre said.

In Yangjiang ferocious winds ripped signs off buildings, downing trees and destroying fences.

The weather service said that at the time of landfall, the maximum wind speed near the centre of the storm was close to 145 kmph.

Bangladesh police arrest 244 activists of Awami League

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

The Bangladesh police on Wednesday arrested 244 activists of deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's now disbanded Awami League as they staged several flash processions here.

Fourteen crude bombs and seven banners were also seized from the activists during their arrest, Dhaka metropolitan police's additional commissioner SN Nazrul Islam told reporters.

"The 244 people arrested from the processions at different parts of the city are leaders and activists of the banned Awami League and its affiliated organisations," Mr. Islam said.

Over 500 Awami League leaders and activists have been arrested by the police in previous such drives in the capital so far, he said, adding that the arrest of the 244 activists in a single day was the highest number so far.

Mr. Islam said that the seizure of crude bombs and banners were made "with the help of people" in neighbourhoods at Uttara, Farmgate, and Tejgaon areas of the capital.

In recent months, activists of the banned party have been staging flash processions, dispersing quickly after their protest marches to evade police action.

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SELF-APPRAISAL

I got the job done for my team, says India opener Abhishek

AFP

I got the job done for my team. I go with the flow. When it's in my range, I go after it, even if it's the first ball. I have done a lot of work in practice sessions. When you play too many shots in the net, you can get out. However, I practice and try not to get out in the nets — India opener Abhishek Sharma.

LETDOWN

The batters failed to execute their plans: Bangladesh skipper Jaker

AP

Bangladesh stand-in skipper Jaker Ali said the batters failed to execute their plans in the 41-run loss to India in the Super Four stage of the Asia Cup on Wednesday. "There wasn't any tension on our part. We were not able to execute our plans. We didn't do well as a batting unit. That was the reason for the loss," Jaker said.

HONEST TAKE

We can't give excuses at this level, says Varun on India's fielding

AP

Varun Chakaravarthy said India's fielding will have to improve after the team dropped a slew of catches against Bangladesh. "We can't give excuses at this level. We should be taking these catches. The floodlights do come in the eye line. It is a little disturbance, but we have to get used to it. We have to pick up our fielding," he said.

AT THE HELM

Wadkar to lead Vidarbha against Rest of India in Irani Trophy

PTI

Akshay Wadkar will captain Vidarbha in the Irani Cup. **The other members:** Yash Rathod, Atharva Taide, Aman Mokhade, Danish Malewar, Harsh Dubey, Parth Rekhade, Yash Thakur, Nachiket Bhute, Darshan Nalkande, Aditya Thakare, Akshay Karnewar, Yash Kadam, Shivam Deshmukh, Praful Hinge, and Dhruv Shorey.

After Abishek's blitzkrieg, the bowlers seal the deal

The Men in Blue slip up after a blistering start to finish with 168 before Kuldeep and Varun turn it on to set up a 41-run win; Bumrah picks up two; Team India marches into the summit clash

ASIA CUP

Vivek Krishnan
DUBAI

Warm, sweaty evenings are the norm in this part of the world. It is becoming as much of a norm for Abhishek Sharma to show his belligerent strokeplay for India in the T20 format. On Wednesday evening, the southpaw hammered 75 off 37 balls to help his side get to 168 for six and register a 41-run win against Bangladesh in a Super Four encounter of the Asia Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

By virtue of the win, India has qualified for Sunday's final. Bangladesh's contest against Pakistan on Thursday is a virtual semi-final with Sri Lanka knocked out.

Bangladesh was in with a chance in the chase after pulling things back with the ball. Rishad Hossain effected Abhishek's run-out in addition to claiming two scalps with his leg-spin.

But the Jaker Ali-led outfit - full-time skipper Litton Das was out due to a back strain - could only manage 127 in response. Saif Hassan's 69 was the lone bright spot in the reply as India's bowlers produced another fine display. Kuldeep Yadav took three scalps while Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakravarthy claimed two each.

Firing at the top: Abhishek smashed six fours and five maximums in his 37-ball 75. AFP

Saif, who had smashed 61 in Bangladesh's successful chase of 169 over Sri Lanka last Saturday, didn't help his cause with his involvement in Jaker's run-out courtesy a direct hit from Suryakumar Yadav.

The game should have been in India's pocket when Saif, who reached his half-century off 36 balls, skied Varun twice in the 16th over, but Shivam Dube and Sanju Samson made a hash of these chances to prolong matters. Nevertheless, Kuldeep struck off successive deliveries in the next over and left Saif with too much to do.

Picking up pace

The win was set up by Abhishek and Shubman Gill's opening stand of 77 runs. With a sluggish outfield playing its part, India was 17 for no loss after three overs.

Too hot to handle: The Bangladesh batters came a cropper against the wily Kuldeep and Bumrah. AFP

But it proved to be the proverbial lull before the storm. Gill went after left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed in a 21-run over. Abhishek, too, shifted gears in the fifth over. He greeted Mustafizur Rahman, Bangladesh's highest wicket-taker in this format, with a six over mid-on. In the same over, he waltzed down the track and slammed the pacer towards the third man region for another maximum.

By the time the Powerplay ended, India had sauntered to 72 for none with Abhishek on 46 off 19 deliveries.

In the final over before the fielding restrictions eased, Abhishek creamed Mohammad Saifuddin for four boundaries.

Rishad provided his side some respite by getting Gill and Dube to hole out at long-off. Abhishek, unperturbed as ever, slog-swept Rishad for a six before targeting Saifuddin again in a 16-run 11th over.

Just when the opener seemed to be on course for a third T20I ton, however, Rishad made his presence felt yet again.

This time, his agility on the field saw him move sharply to his left at backward point and take aim for Mustafizur to remove the bails at the non-striker's end. It was a small consolation for Rishad and Bangladesh in the end.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Abhishek Sharma run out 75 *(37b, 6x4, 5x6)*, Shubman Gill c Tanzim b Rishad 29 *(19b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Shivam Dube c Hridoy b Rishad 2 (3b), Suryakumar Yadav c Jaker b Mustafizur 5 *(11b)*, Hardik Pandya c Tanzid b Saifuddin 38 *(29b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Tilak Varma c Saif b Tanzim 5 *(7b)*, Axar Patel (not out) 10 *(15b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-2, nb-1): 4; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 168.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-77 (Gill, 6.2 overs), 2-83 (Dube, 8.1), 3-112 (Abhishek, 11.1), 4-114 (Suryakumar, 11.6), 5-129 (Tilak, 14.3), 6-168 (Hardik, 19.6).

BANGLADESH BOWLING

Tanzim 4-0-29-1, Nasum 4-0-34-0, Mustafizur 4-0-33-1, Saifuddin 3-0-37-1, Rishad 3-0-27-2, Saif 2-0-7-0.

BANGLADESH

Saif Hassan c Axar b Bumrah 69 *(51b, 3x4, 5x6)*, Tanzid Hasan c Dube b Bumrah 1 *(3b)*, Parvez Hossain Emon c Abhishek b Kuldeep 21 *(19b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Towhid Hridoy c Abhishek b Axar 7 *(10b)*, Shamim Hossain b Varun 0 *(3b)*, Jaker Ali run out 4 *(5b)*, Mohammad Saifuddin c Tilak b Varun 4 *(7b)*, Rishad Hossain c Tilak b Kuldeep 2 *(3b)*, Tanzim Hasan Sakib b Kuldeep 0 *(1b)*, Nasum Ahmed (not out) 4 *(4b)*, Mustafizur Rahman c Axar b Tilak 6 *(11b, 1x4)*; Extras (w-9): 9; Total (in 19.3 overs): 127.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Tanzid, 1.2), 2-46 (Parvez, 6.2), 3-65 (Hridoy, 9.4), 4-74 (Shamim, 10.4), 5-87 (Jaker, 12.3), 6-109 (Saifuddin, 15.2), 7-112 (Rishad, 16.1), 8-112 (Tanzim, 16.2), 9-116 (Saif, 17.2).

INDIA BOWLING

Hardik 2-0-14-0, Bumrah 4-0-18-2, Varun 4-0-29-2, Kuldeep 4-0-18-3, Axar 4-0-37-1, Dube 1-0-10-0, Tilak 0.3-0-1-1.

Toss: Bangladesh.
PoM: Abhishek.
India won by 41 runs.
India's next match: Sept. 26 vs. Sri Lanka, Dubai, 8 p.m. IST.

Today's match

SUPER 4S

Pakistan vs. Bangladesh

Dubai, 8 p.m. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is

Played: 25

Pakistan 20 | Bangladesh 5

LIVE ON SONY SPORTS TEN 5 (SD & HD) & LIV

Reign continues: Varun and Hardik continue to rack up rating points. AFP & AP

Varun, Abhishek and Hardik retain top spots

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

The Indian trio of all-rounder Hardik Pandya, mystery spinner Varun Chakaravarthy and aggressive opener Abhishek Sharma retained their respective top positions in the ICC T20I rankings released on Wednesday.

Varun, who became the top-ranked bowler last week, has consolidated his place with a 14 rating points gain taking him to 747 points. Following an 11-place jump last week, Pakistan's Abrar Ahmed has made another massive leap, this time by 12 spots.

Mustafizur Rahman is back in top 10 courtesy a six-place jump. Hardik who continues to lead the all-rounder's list has also made bowling gains, moving up six places up to 60.

Among the batters, opener Abhishek made rating points gains while retaining his place as the No. 1-ranked T20I batter.

Tilak Varma moved up a rung to No. 3. Skipper Suryakumar Yadav, too, gained a place to move within touching distance of the top five.

A strong batting unit and spin quartet cornerstones of Sciver-Brunt's England

WC COUNTDOWN

Anirudh Velamuri

A 16-0 Ashes drubbing shook any possible ounce of complacency out of England's system earlier this year. It led to some significant sackings, with coach Jon Lewis making way for Charlotte Edward and Heather Knight losing her captaincy, with Nat Sciver-Brunt taking her place.

The upcoming Women's ODI World Cup perhaps comes a bit too soon as the Edwards era looks to get underway truly.

The side has an enviable pedigree on paper. A sound batting unit and an imperious spin attack mean one cannot count them out of the knockouts, regardless of form.

Amy Jones and skipper Sciver-Brunt have been solid with the bat, with 410 and 396 runs, respectively, in the format this year. Opener Tammy Beaumont's consecutive centuries against the West Indies were a high point, but England's soaring confidence was popped mercilessly in a 1-2 loss to India. Sophia Dunkley's fighting 126-run haul in that series offered some solace.

Back in the swing: Knight's return will be a big boost for England. FILE PHOTO

Knight's return to the middle order after a long hamstring-induced layoff is a shot in the arm for the four-time champion. She had a decent outing in their warm-up fixtures against New Zealand in Abu Dhabi this month.

The run-up to the World Cup has been marred by controversy surrounding Kate Cross's omission and her claims of losing favour with Edwards. England has placed much faith on Lauren Bell, Lauren Filer, and Em Arlott to shoulder the entire pace bowling load.

Leading by example: Skipper Sciver-Brunt has been solid with the bat, scoring 396 runs in ODIs this season. GETTY IMAGES

But it is a tried-and-tested spin quartet led by World No.1 in ODIs Sophie Ecclestone will carry this side's hopes in the subcontinent's anticipated slow conditions.

Edwards is known for her Midas touch in the franchise and domestic circuit, having won two Women's Premier League titles with Mumbai Indians and the Hundred with Southern Brave, along with five domestic trophies with the Southern Vipers. Can she translate that magic on the international stage? Time will tell.

The squad: Nat Sciver-Brunt (Capt.), Em Arlott, Tammy Beaumont, Lauren Bell, Alice Capsey, Charlie Dean, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Lauren Filer, Sarah Glenn, Amy Jones, Heather Knight, Emma Lamb, Linsey Smith, Danni Wyatt-Hodge.

England's fixtures: Oct. 3: South Africa (Guwahati); **Oct. 7:** Bangladesh (Guwahati); **Oct. 11:** Sri Lanka (Colombo); **Oct. 15:** Pakistan (Colombo); **Oct. 19:** India (Indore); **Oct. 22:** Australia (Indore); **Oct. 26:** New Zealand (Visakhapatnam).

Impact Player

Skipper Nat Sciver-Brunt scored two group-stage centuries and a crucial fifty in the final to help England lift the 2017 World Cup. Similar form in 2022 was key to England reaching the final. As the side's top scorer in this cycle (1381), she can help England mount a serious challenge for the crown

Wolvaardt. FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

Wolvaardt confident about SA's chances

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

South Africa, taking lessons from the past, enters this month's women's ODI World Cup with renewed confidence that it can stand toe-to-toe with the top teams and finally break through to its maiden final, says skipper Laura Wolvaardt.

"The belief is strong going into this tournament. We'd like to keep that momentum going," Wolvaardt wrote in her column for ICC. "I believe we have a good squad. We bat deep, with a lot of all-rounders giving us different bowling options, which is exciting for me as captain."

INBRIEF

Real thrashes Levante after Mbappe's brace

Real Madrid extended its winning start to La Liga with a comfortable 4-1 triumph at Levante on Tuesday. Kylian Mbappe scored twice to reach seven league goals in six matches as Xabi Alonso's side maintained its 100 percent record. Vinicius Junior opened the scoring with a superb finish and Franco Mastantuono was also on target for the league leader.

The results: Athletic Bilbao 1 (Jauregizar 48) drew with Girona 1 (Ounahi 9); Espanyol 2 (Cabrera 59, Puado 90+6) drew with Valencia 2 (Danjuma 15, Duro 62); Levante 1 (Eyong 54) lost to Real Madrid 4 (Vinicius 28, Mastantuono 38, Mbappe 64-pen, 66); Sevilla 1 (Sow 51) lost to Villarreal 2 (Oluwaseyi 17, Solomon 86).

Svitolina and Beatriz Maia end their tennis seasons early

Former No. 3-ranked Elina Svitolina said she will end her tennis season early because she is "not in the right emotional space." "I haven't been feeling like myself lately," Svitolina posted on Instagram. "I don't feel ready to play, so I am therefore ending my season here." Svitolina, now ranked 13th, said she needed time to rest and recharge. Fellow player Beatriz Haddad Maia also said that she needs an extended period of rest time and will end her 2025 season. "I am posting this to share with you that I am wrapping up my 2025 season a little ahead of schedule so that I can rest my body and mind for a longer period," the Brazilian player said.

Sukhman goes to the top in AP Amateur Golf

Sukhman Singh shot a six-under 65 to go to the top of the leaderboard on the second day of the IGU Andhra Pradesh Amateur Golf Championship at the East Point Golf Club in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday.

Leading scores (after 36 holes): 133: Sukhman Singh (68, 65); **134:** Sanju (70, 64); **135:** Deepak Yadav (67, 68); **136:** Akash Kumar (69, 67); **137:** Vivek Kumar (71, 66); **138:** Sumit Kotwal (70, 68), Ram Singh Mann (70, 68), Puthuru Raj Kumar (67, 71); **139:** Ranveer Mitroo (66, 73).

FC Bengaluru United puts it past HAL FC

FC Bengaluru United defeated HAL FC 2-0 in the KSFA Super Division football league in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The results: ASC & Centre FC 1 (T. Krishna 90) drew with South United FC 1 (M. Daniyal 90); FC Bengaluru United 2 (Romario Nazareth 15, K. Junain 63) bt HAL FC 0; Rebels FC 2 (Meitei 46-og, S. Rashid 80) bt Roots FC 0.

Sinner 'changing his game' after US Open loss to Alcaraz

Jannik Sinner said on Wednesday he has been making changes to his game and "reflecting a lot" ahead of his first appearance since losing the US Open final to Carlos Alcaraz. The Italian failed to defend his title in New York this month after Alcaraz emphatically overpowered him in four sets and snatched back the World No. 1 ranking. Four-time Grand Slam champion Sinner said afterwards he would need to be more unpredictable in his play if he was going to beat his rival from Spain. "We've been reflecting a lot," the 24-year-old Sinner said in Beijing, where he returns to action at the China Open. "We are changing a lot of small things where I'm thinking of now," added the World No. 2, without divulging what the alterations were. "The amount of mistakes at the moment is for sure a little bit higher, but I hope that this after recovers in a very positive way," he said.

Setting the platform: Suryavanshi, Vihaan and Abhigyan powered India to 300, a total that proved enough despite Draper's century for Australia. FILE PHOTOS

India colts seal series with emphatic win

Suryavanshi, Vihaan and Abhigyan shine as the visitors beat Australia by 51 runs to take an unassailable 2-0 lead; Draper's 72-ball 107 goes in vain

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
BRISBANE

Vaibhav Suryavanshi made a breezy fifty and skipper Ayush Mhatre grabbed three wickets with his part-time off-spin as India under-19 defeated Australia under-19 by 51 runs in the second Youth ODI at Ian Healy Oval on Wednesday.

The victory helped India take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Middle-order batter Jayden Draper made a 72-ball 107 (8x4, 5x6) for the Aussies, but they were dismissed for 249 in 47.2 overs, chasing a stiff 301-run target set by the visitor.

Suryavanshi (70, 68b, 5x4, 6x6) laid the foundation for India's charge after his fellow opener Mhatre fell for a two-ball duck.

The teen batting sensation and Vihaan Malhotra (70, 74b, 7x4, 1x6) added 117 runs for the second wicket to bring India back on track, but the dismissal of Suryavanshi robbed India of the momentum.

Wicketkeeper Abhigyan Kundu (71, 64b, 5x4, 2x6) kept the board ticking with small yet critical partnerships with late-order batters as India made 300 in 49.4 overs.

The host's chase looked in good shape once it reached 63 for one in 18.5 overs. But off-spinner Kanishk Chouhan dismissed Steve Hogan to trigger a mini collapse as the side slipped to 63 for four.

It soon became 109 for six as the Aussies stared at a rout. But Draper and Aryan Sharma (38) added 112 runs for the seventh wicket to keep the fight on.

However, Mhatre stepped in at this juncture to bag the wickets of Draper and Aryan in quick succession to snuff out Australia's hopes.

The scores: India u-19 300 in 49.4 overs (Vaibhav Suryavanshi 70, Vihaan Malhotra 70, Abhigyan Kundu 71, Will Byrom 3/47) bt Australia u-19 249 in 47.2 overs (Jayden Draper 107, Aryan Sharma 38, Ayush Mhatre 3/27).
Toss: Australia u-19.

Thornton's sharp spell tears apart India-A

Sahil Mathur
LUCKNOW

Henry Thornton does not have express pace, but his skiddy round-arm action was enough to rattle India-A.

At the Ekana Cricket Stadium on Wednesday, the seamer claimed four wickets to put Australia-A in command on day two of the second 'Test'.

After posting 420 in the first innings, the visitor bowled out the host for 194 to secure a 226-run lead. India-A then struck back late to leave Australia-A at 16 for three.

Gurnoor Brar removed Sam Konstas with his first delivery, Mohammed Siraj had Campbell Kellaway caught behind, and Manav Suthar dismissed Oliver Peake at leg-slip.

Yet, the day belonged to Thornton.

Introduced in the 10th over, the 28-year-old dismissed N. Jagadeesan, who pulled a short ball to mid-wicket. In the next over, Devdutt Padikkal edged to mid-off while Dhruv Jurel was hurried into an lbw.

Retired hurt

Thornton returned later to test Prasidh Krishna with short balls. One was pulled for six, but another struck the batter on the helmet, forcing him to retire hurt.

Yash Thakur came in as the concussion substitute, and soon Siraj gloved a bouncer to the 'keeper to hand Thornton his fourth.

For India-A, Sai Sudharsan's 75 off 140 balls was the lone highlight.

Coming in after K.L. Rahul edged behind off Will Sutherland, the left-hander showed composure, driving confidently and countering the short ball with an upper cut for six.

He stitched a 51-run stand with Ayush Badoni, who was eventually stumped. Todd Murphy trapped Sai Sudharsan leg before to end the resistance. India-A's innings ended tamely with a run-out mix-up between Gurnoor and Yash Thakur.

Reaping the rewards: Thornton, right, bowled to his plans and strengths. UPCA

Frustrating

Earlier, Murphy and Thornton had added 91 for the last wicket, with the former's enterprising 76 frustrating the host. Thornton stayed unbeaten on 32 before turning tormentor with the ball.

The scores: Australia-A 420 in 97.2 overs (Sam Konstas 49, Nathan McSweeney 74, Jack Edwards 88, Todd Murphy 76, Manav Suthar 5/107) & 16/3 in 7.5 overs vs India-A 194 in 52.5 overs (Sai Sudharsan 75, Henry Thornton 4/36).

Karun puts KSCA Secretary's XI in summit clash

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Karun Nair (151 n.o., 169b, 12x4, 2x6) powered KSCA Secretary's XI past Goa CA by six wickets in the semifinal of the Dr. (Capt) K. Thimmappiah Memorial tournament at Alur (1) grounds here on Wednesday.

Karun rescued his team from a precarious 85 for four.

Set a target of 265, KSCA Secretary's XI got home in 66.4 overs, on the back of an unbroken stand between between Karun and P. Dhruv (65 n.o., 102b, 5x4).

In the final, KSCA Secretary's XI will face Madhya Pradesh CA. In the second semifinal at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Madhya Pradesh CA went past Himachal Pradesh CA on the basis of the first-innings lead.

Karun's unbeaten 151 took his team home. FILE PHOTO:

The scores (semifinals): Goa CA 338 & 202 in 89.2 overs (Abhishek Ahlawat 5/74) lost KSCA Secretary's XI 276 & 266/4 in 66.4 overs (Karun Nair 151 n.o., P. Dhruv 65 n.o.).

Madhya Pradesh CA 425 & 411/6 in 120 overs (Harsh Gawli 152, Yash Dubey 76, Harpreet Singh 83) drew with Himachal Pradesh CA 204.

Indian challenge fizzles out in Korea

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SUWON

H.S. Prannoy's campaign ended in disappointment as he retired hurt due to injury, while Ayush Shetty also bowed out as India's challenge at the Korea Masters Super 500 concluded on the opening day of the main draw here on Wednesday.

Prannoy, 33, was trailing 5-8 against Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo when he suffered an injury after playing a cross-court smash and clutched his right ribs.

After taking a medical timeout, he resumed play but appeared uncomfortable and was forced to retire at 8-16.

Ayush, the only Indian to claim a BWF title this season at the US Open Super 300, was outplayed by Taiwan's Su Li Yang 18-21, 18-21 in a 47-minute encounter.

Spirited fight

Kiran George put up a spirited fight before succumbing 14-21, 22-20, 14-21 to former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore.

In the women's singles, Anupama Upadhyaya lost 16-21, 15-21 to fourth seed and world No. 8 Putri Wardani of Indonesia.

In mixed doubles, Mohit Jaglan and Lakshita Jaglan were defeated 7-21, 14-21 by Japan's Yuichi Shimogami and Sayaka Hobara.

LIVE TELECAST

Women's ODI World Cup (warm-up): New Zealand vs India-A, JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.; India vs England, JioHotstar, 3 p.m.
Men's T20 Asia Cup: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.

Rock Bank primed to deliver in feature

MYSURU: Rock Bank, who is in fine nick, may score an encore in the Rajakumari Leelavathi Devi Memorial Trophy (1,600m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Thursday (Sept. 25). False rails (width about 4m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 SHIMSHA PLATE (1,600m), rated 00 to 25, 2-30 p.m.: 1. Free To Win (4) L.A. Rozario 62, 2. Highland Dream (–) (–) 62, 3. Eco System (2) Pavan 60, 4. Sling Shot (3) Suhas K 59.5, 5. Shock And Awe (5) S. Sachin 59, 6. Double Scotch (–) (–) 58.5, 7. Striking Eyes (7) Jagadeesh 58.5 and 8. My Visionary (6) Neeraj 53.5.
1. MY VISIONARY, 2. SHOCK AND AWE

2 SRI KANTEERAVA NARASIMHARAJA SPORTS CLUB TROPHY (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 3-00: 1. Sandal King (6) Mukesh K 60, 2. Eclipse Pulse (4) Asirvatham 59, 3. Salt N Pepper (3) N.B. Kuldeep 54.5, 4. Glory Of Heaven (9) H. Rahul 54, 5. Glowing Moonlights (10) R. Robert 54, 6. Totally Epic (7) Aleemuddin 54, 7. Wild Child (1) A. Baandal 54, 8. Golden Stride (2) A. Ramu 53, 9. Dalhousie (5) Ayaz Khan 52.5 and 10. Pette's Choice (8) S. Imran 52.
1. TOTALLY EPIC, 2. PETTE'S CHOICE, 3. ECLIPSE PULSE

3 RANGA FAMILY CUP (1,800m), rated 40 to 65, 3-30: 1. Tignanello (5) Faiz 61.5, 2. Freedom Touch (3) Ashhad Asbar 60, 3. Small Dreams (6) Shreyas S 57.5, 4. Serdar (4) Abhishek Mhatre 57, 5. Winfield (1) Antony 54.5, 6. Mystikos (2) Vinod Shinde 52 and 7. Whirlwind (7) Neeraj 51.5.
1. SMALL DREAMS, 2. WHIRLWIND

4 RAJAKUMARI LEELAVATHI DEVI MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), rated 80 & above, 4-00: 1. Touch Of Grey (4) Darshan 62.5, 2. Santorino (1) Dhanu S 62, 3. Magnetic (3) Antony 54 and 4. Rock Bank (2) Neeraj 50.
1. ROCK BANK, 2. TOUCH OF GREY

5 SRI KANTEERAVA NARASIMHARAJA SPORTS CLUB TROPHY (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-30: 1. Dabeet (7) A. Agarwal 62.5, 2. Knotty Affair (10) Darshan 60, 3. Eagle Bluff (5) Siddaraju P 57, 4. Selma (6) A. Baandal 56.5, 5. Silicon Star (1) A. Ramu 56, 6. Windcleaver (3) Mukesh K 56, 7. Sd Good Sam (8) Dhanu S 55.5, 8. Rock My Heart (2) H. Rahul 55, 9. Adelanto (4) Salman Khan 54 and 10. Nizbati Queen (9) Abhishek Mhatre 52.5.
1. KNOTTY AFFAIR, 2. SILICON STAR, 3. ADELANTO

6 INDRADHANUSH PLATE (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Code Of Honour (1) M. Prabhakaran 62, 2. Felicita (2) Pavan 61, 3. Knotty In Blue (12) S.G. Prasad 59, 4. Elevado (11) Akshay Gaikwad 56, 5. Furious Fun (7) R. Robert 55.5, 6. Just Blues (4) Arvind K 55.5, 7. Maduva Thalaivi (8) Prabhu K 55, 8. Anushtubha (10) H. Rahul 54, 9. Break Away (6) S. Imran 52.5, 10. Saffron Breeze (9) Faiz 52.5, 11. The Lady Emporio (5) A. Ramu 52 and 12. Jannat (3) Varun 51.
1. KNOTTY IN BLUE, 2. CODE OF HONOUR, 3. JUST BLUES

Day's best: **ROCK BANK**
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Jkt: 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; Mini Jkt: 3, 4, 5 and 6; Tr (i): 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 4, 5 and 6.

Bengaluru City's athletes take top honours on day two

DASARA CM CUP

C.K. Muralidharan
MYSURU

Bengaluru City's athletes – men with one gold, four silver & two bronze, women with four gold & three silver medals – took the top honours on the second day of the athletic events in the State-level Dasara CM Cup sports meet at the Chamundivihar stadium here on Wednesday.

Six meet records, including four in the women's section, were set.

Shreeya Rajesh of Bengaluru City won three gold medals in the 200m, 100m hurdles & 4x100m relay events to excel in the women's section.

In swimming, N. Dhoneesh of Bengaluru City with 15 points won the individual champion title in the men's section. In the women's section, Lakshya Shivanand and V. Hitaishi (both of Bengaluru City) shared the individual title with 15 points each.

Standout performers: Lakshya and Hitaishi shared the women's swimming individual championship title, while Dhoneesh, centre, bagged the same in the men's section. Shreeya, right, won three gold medals on the second day.

The results (winners only):
Athletics: Men: 5000m: Balu Yallappa Hegri (Belagavi) 15:09.86s (NMR, Old: Govinda Halavi, Belagavi, 15:37.88s, 2023); **Shot put:** Prajwal M. Shetty (Mysuru) 16.16m; **200m:** M.D. Darshan (B'luru Rural) 22.07d; **110m hurdles:** Labbaik Nalband (Belagavi) 16.25s; **800m:** M.S. Ashrith (B'luru Rural) 1:50.71s (NMR, Old: Tushar Bhekane, B'luru City, 1:52.95s, 2024); **Long jump:** Purushotham (B'luru City) 7.37m; **4x100m relay:** Belagavi, 44.08s.

Women: 3000m: Pranathi (B'luru Rural) 11:31.24s; **200m:** Shreeya Rajesh (B'luru City) 24.89s; **Long jump:** Sridevika Shetty (Mysuru) 5.72m (NMR, Old: G. Pavethra, Mysuru, 5.64m, 2024); **100m hurdles:** Shreeya 14.31s (NMR, Old: Chidrika, B'luru Rural, 15.45s, 2024); **800m:** Rekha Basappa Piroji (Belagavi) 2:15.69s (NMR, Old: Shilpa, Belagavi, 2:16.13s, 2024); **Shot put:** Nivetha (B'luru City) 14.15m; **4x100m relay:** B'luru City, 44.79s (NMR, Old: Mysuru, 49.95s, 2024).

Games: Men: Football: Bengaluru Rural bt Kalburgi 1-0, Bengaluru City bt Belagavi 1-0, Mysuru bt Bengaluru Rural 1-0. **Hockey:** Bengaluru City bt Kalburgi 7-1.

Kho-kho: Bengaluru Rural bt Kalburgi 12-10. **Handball:** 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Bengaluru Rural, 3. Belagavi.

Table tennis: 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Mysuru, 3. Bengaluru Rural. **Throwball:** Mysuru bt Bengaluru Rural 25-27, 25-20, 25-21.

Fencing: Foil: 1. Mysuru, 2. Kalburgi, 3. Bengaluru City & Bengaluru Rural. **Epee:** 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Bengaluru Rural, 3. Belagavi & Kalburgi.

Badminton: 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Bengaluru Rural. **Cycling: 70km:** Srinivas Rajput (Belagavi) 1hr:56.00s. **Swimming:** N. Dhoneesh (B'luru City, 15 points). **Weight lifting: 71kg:** M.Manjunath (Mysuru, 130+160=290kgs), **79kg:** Prajwal (Mysuru, 130+162=292kgs).
Women: Hockey: Bengaluru Rural bt Kalburgi 7-0, Mysuru bt Belagavi 4-2, Mysuru bt Bengaluru City 8-0. **Kho-kho:** Mysuru bt Belagavi 12-6, Kalburgi bt Bengaluru Rural 14-8.
Handball: Bengaluru Rural bt Kalburgi 35-6. **Throwball:** Bengaluru City bt Bengaluru Rural 25-9, 25-15.
Badminton: 1. Bengaluru Rural, 2. Mysuru, 3. Belagavi. **Fencing: Sabre:** 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Bengaluru Rural, 3. Mysuru & Belagavi.
Weight lifting: 58kg: P. Monisha (Bengaluru City, 74+93=167kgs), **63kg:** B.S. Sanika (Mysuru, 68+91=159kgs). **Cycling: 30km:** Gleonna Angel D'Souza (Mysuru, 1hr:04.35s).
Swimming: Lakshya Shivanand & V. Hitaishi (Individual champions-15 points each, both from Bengaluru City).

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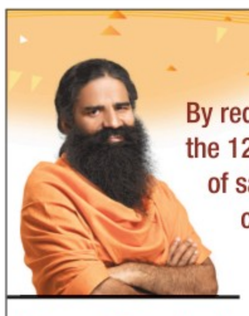

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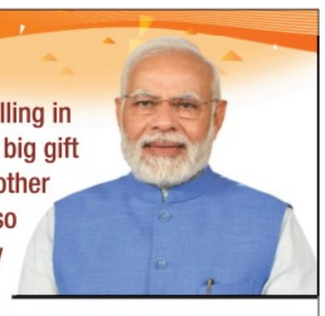

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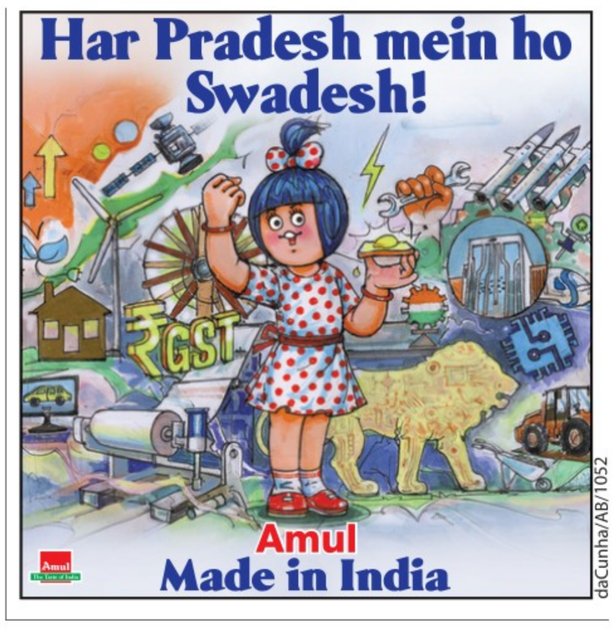
Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

World champion D. Gukesh will be one of the Icon players, along with the likes of five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand, and R. Praggnanandhaa, in the Global Chess League Season 3 player draft, scheduled to be held here on Friday.

However, World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen will skip the tournament, to be held in Chennai from December 13 to 24, after being part of the previous two editions in the UAE and London, respectively.

The GCL will also see the likes of American GMs Hikaru Nakamura and Fabiano Caruana, Alireza Firouzja, and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in the draft pool of 36 players.



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Youngsters hog the limelight, Henderson is costliest buy

Dutch defender de Wijn and Germany's Prinz among the notable foreign picks; the 14-year old Ketan becomes the youngest player to be bought at the Hockey India League mini-auction

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Australian midfielder Liam Henderson became the costliest buy for the second season of the Hockey India League even as Ketan Kushwaha grabbed the limelight as the youngest player on any team's roster as youngsters remained the biggest draw at the mini-auction on Wednesday.

The 22-year old Henderson, who made his senior international debut during the Pro League this year, was bought by Kalinga Lancers for ₹42 lakh after a bidding war with Delhi SG Pipers, making him one of the most expensive foreign players in HIL.

The 14-year-old Kushwaha, on the other hand, was snapped by Shrachi Bengal Tigers for ₹2.5 lakh, making him the youngest player in any professional league across the world. A product of Lucknow Sports Hostel, Kushwaha, who has been making waves on the domestic circuit across age groups for a couple of years now, hails from Jhansi, continuing the city's hockey tradition of Dhyan Chand, Ashok Kumar and Tushar Khandker.

Going for it: The young players were the biggest draw at the mini-auction. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Among the other big buys were veteran Dutch defender Sander de Wijn (Tamil Nadu Dragons) and German midfielder Thies Prinz (HIGC), both for ₹36 lakh each, and 23-year old Australian striker Cooper Burns (Kalinga Lancers) for ₹34.50 lakh.

Among the women, Argentine defender Agustina Gorzelany became the most expensive player in the league, signed for ₹42 lakh by Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers. In fact, Argentina players were the most in demand among the women with the top-three buys of the day all being from Las Leonas, arguably one of the most dominant sides in world hockey. Forward María José Granatto was picked up by Delhi SG Pipers for ₹34 lakh while defender Valentina Raposo Ruiz de los Llanos joined Agustina at SRBT for ₹30 lakh. Among the Indians, experienced midfielder Monika, who went unsold last year, became the costliest buy of the day at ₹15 lakh.

Meanwhile, with no time to bring a new franchise on board, the operations of the UP Rudras team were taken over by the HIL Governing Council for the coming season, ensuring there would be eight teams after all. The team will be called HILGC and managed by Hockey India.

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We have also advised our channel partners to reflect the GST rate reduction in their respective sale prices, ensuring the benefit reaches end consumers.

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